PUELLA MAGI TART★MAGICA

The legend of "Jeanne d'Arc"

ART BY
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ORIGINAL STORY BY
MAGICA QUARTET

PUELLA MAGI TART MAGICA

VOLUME THREE

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Et tu m'aimeras un peu ?

Beaucoup.

Ce n'est guère.

Et comment ?

En fait d'amour, vois-tu,
trop n'est pas même assez.

Beaumarchais «Les Noces de Figaro»

Puella Magi Tart Magica The Legend of "Jeanne d'Arc" ③ Art by © Masugitsune / Kawazu-ku

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TART

She met Cube in her village of Domremy, and making a wish to "have the power to bring light to France," she entered into a contract with Cube and became a magical girl.

RIZ

A magical girl who went to Tart's home village with Cube. She is a mercenary who was born in Italy.

MELISSA

Daughter of the mercenary La Hire. She is serving the army under Tart's leadership. She is in charge of managing supplies and reinforcements.

ALLIED WITH FRANCE

ELISA

A magical girl and member of the Order of the Dragon.

CHARACTER GUIDE

ALLIED WITH ENGLAND

CORBEAU

LAPIN

MINOU

PUELLA MAGI

TART MAGICA

The Legend of Jeanne d'Arc

VOLUME THREE

TART! FATHER !!

MON-SIEUR CUBE...

MY, WHO WOULD HAVE EXPECTED THIS OUT-COME?

SU (SHF)

...HAS MATURED QUITE BEYOND ANYTHING I COULD HAVE IMAGINED.

IT SEEMS THE ENEMY MAGICAL GIRL...

OOOOO (WHOOO)

PLEASE... CAN'T YOU SAVE THEM? PLEASE...?

MONSIEUR CUBE... BOTH OF THEM ARE ABOUT TO DIE!

Puella Magi Tart☆Magica

The Legend of "Jeanne d'Arc"

Chapter 9

AS RIZ HAS ALREADY TRIED AND FAILED TO REVIVE HER, I EXPECT THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO BE DONE.

KOOOOO (RRRUMBL)

NOT ONLY HAS SHE BEEN GRAVELY WOUNDED, SHE'S ALSO LOST A LOT OF MAGIC POWER...

LISTEN, MELISSA. IF YOU CONTRACT WITH ME AND BECOME A MAGICAL GIRL, ONE WISH YOU MAKE WILL COME TRUE.

OF COURSE, THAT WOULD MEAN BECOMING LIKE TART. YOU WOULD HAVE TO FIGHT FROM THEN ON.

I'M AFRAID HIS LIFE FUNCTIONS WILL SHUT DOWN PERMANENTLY SOON TOO.

AND YOUR FATHER... HE'S JUST HUMAN.

NO...

THOUGH I SUSPECT...

...THAT IS THAT IS THE VERY REASON TART HAS TRIED TO PREVENT YOU FROM BECOMING A MAGICAL GIRL ALL THIS TIME.

BUT...

I CAN'T FORCE YOU TO MAKE A DECISION EITHER.

...IS A DECISION ONLY YOU CAN MAKE.

AT THIS MOMENT, THE ONLY THING STANDING BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH FOR BOTH OF THEM...

WHAT WILL YOU DO...

...

MELISSA?

IT'S BEEN FOUR OR FIVE YEARS, HUH?

YES, IT HAS. IT FEELS LIKE A VERY LONG TIME.

BUT, ÉTI, WHY THE SUDDEN URGE TO VISIT THE HOME-LAND?

DIDN'T YOU SEVER ALL TIES TO HOME WHEN YOU LEFT TO BECOME A MERCENARY?

FELLOW MERCENARY FROM LA HIRE'S HOMETOWN: JEAN POTON DE XAINTRAILLES

1418
PRÉCHACQ-LES-BAINS IN THE GASCONY REGION, SOUTHWEST FRANCE

ZA CZSH

ZA

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY'LL SAY IF THEY SEE ME BACK HERE AGAIN ...

WELL, WHEN I DASHED OFF WITH YOU, I LEFT MY WHOLE FAMILY BEHIND.

PORI (SCRATCH)

I'VE JUST BEEN TOO BUSY TO MAKE IT BACK HERE.

AND "LA HIRE" NEVER ACTUALLY CUT TIES TO HOME, XAIN-TRAILLES.

HEH!

HEY, NOW! THERE'S NO NEED FOR CHILDISH NICKNAMES LIKE "ETI." WE'RE IN OUR HOME-TOWN, BUT WE'RE NOT KIDS ANY-MORE!

IT SURE TAKES ME BACK... I WONDER HOW MY SISTER MILENE IS DOING?

EVEN SO, JUST LOOK AT THIS PLACE. IT'S HARDLY CHANGED AT ALL!

CHIRA (GLANCE)

チラッ

...ER... ACK!

AH!!

DAKA

DAKA (GALLOP)

...I FEEL LIKE A RUN, SO I'M GOING ON AHEAD.

KATSU (CLOP)

KATSU

HAAH...

MILENE...

ETI...YOU'RE PLANNING TO LEAVE TOWN WITH POTON, AREN'T YOU?

SURE AM!

GASHI (CLANK)

I'VE PROVEN MYSELF IN BATTLE MORE THAN A FEW TIMES!

WE'RE NATURALS FOR MERCENARY WORK!

STARTING NOW, I'M GONNA MAKE MORE MONEY THAN A FARMER HERE IN THE STICKS COULD MAKE HIS WHOLE LIFE!

AND JUST THINK! IF I DO REALLY WELL, THEY MIGHT EVEN MAKE ME A NOBLE!

I'VE ALREADY SHOWN 'EM JUST WHAT I CAN DO ON THE BATTLEFIELD, AND NOW THEY'RE CALLING ME "LA HIRE"!

CLANK

EH?

THE MINUTE THAT HAPPENS, I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU.

PORI (SCRATCH)

PORI

DON'T BOTHER.

FUI (SIGH)

I'M SAYING, DON'T BOTHER COMING BACK.

WHA ...!?

YOU AND POTON CAN GO OFF TO FIGHT YOUR PRECIOUS BATTLES AND DIE IN SOME FIELD IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE FOR ALL I CARE.

I CAN'T EVEN EXPRESS HOW MUCH YOU IRRITATE ME!

"LA HIRE"? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

WHOA, WHOA!

WHAT DID YOU SAY!? HERE I THOUGHT I'D OFFER YOU THE PRIVILEGE OF MARRYING ME, AND YOU COME OUT WITH THAT!?

YOU CAN LEAVE NOW.

MILENE, YOU TAKE THAT BACK!!

KA (SNAP)

ALL I SEE WHEN I LOOK AT YOU IS A GROWN MAN WITH THE MIND OF A CHILD.

YOU WITCH! DON'T COME CRAWLING TO ME WHEN I'M RICH, 'COS I'M NOT TAKIN' YOU BACK!!

DAMMIT, MILENE! WHAT THE HELL WAS ALL THAT ABOUT!?

DOSU (STOMP)

DOSU

BATAN (SLAM)

...I NEVER...

...WANT TO BE A BURDEN TO HIM.

GYU (CLENCH)

ZA

ZA CZSHD

WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S MY SISTER ...

WHAT'S WRONG, XAIN-TRAILLES?

...AH.

MY MOTHER AND FATHER TOO...

HUH?

...IS DEAD.

MY SISTER...

WHAT ...?

EVERYONE IN HIS HOUSEHOLD FELL TO IT AT THE TIME.

LAST YEAR, THE PLAGUE STRUCK THIS TOWN...

I'VE BEEN THE PARISH PRIEST HERE SINCE BEING APPOINTED A FEW YEARS AGO.

FLIRA (SWAY)

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN ...?

SINCE SHE HAD NO ONE LEFT TO CARE FOR HER, WE AT THE CHURCH TOOK HER IN WITH ALL THE OTHER PLAGUE ORPHANS...

IN THE END, THE ONLY ONE TO SURVIVE THE EPIDEMIC WAS MILENE'S BABY.

IF ONLY...

IF ONLY WE'D COME BACK SOONER ...

GU GU GU

GA GRAB

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY!!?

GYU CCLENCHO

WHERE IS SHE!?

IT'S JUST AS I SAID. WE TOOK IN MILENE'S CHILD AND—

SHE IS A VERY PIOUS YOUNG LADY, SO...

...I'M SURE YOU CAN FIND HER PRAYING OVER HER FAMILY IN THE GRAVEYARD.

HFF!

HFF!

DID YOU...

...REQUIRE SOME-THING OF ME, SIR?

ZA CSH

ザッ

I MEAN... I WAS BORN IN THIS VILLAGE. I'D KNOWN MILENE SINCE WE WERE KIDS.

MY NAME... IS LA HIRE.

...THE GIRL LOOKS JUST LIKE HER...

?

I DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO DO THAT...

NO...NOT THAT.

PLEASE, GO AHEAD.

I SEE... SO YOU'VE COME TO PRAY AT HER GRAVE-SITE?

I DON'T KNOW.

MILENE DID? THEN... YOUR FATHER IS...

IT'S MELISSA. MY MOTHER GAVE ME THAT NAME.

UM... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

ÉTI!!

TA CTMP!

THE ONLY THING I—

HE HASN'T BEEN AROUND EVER SINCE I WAS BORN.

ÉTI...?

IS THIS HER!?

Y-YEAH...

SO YOU'RE MELIS-SA?

I'M MILENE'S... YOUR MOTHER'S LITTLE BROTHER. THAT IS TO SAY, I'M YOUR UNCLE...

WHA ...!?

...BEFORE MY MOTHER DIED, SHE WAS DELIRI-OUS WITH PAIN, AND SHE SAID...

..."ETI, DON'T LEAVE ME..."

ETI...

WHAT'S WRONG?

ETI! I HEARD SOME-THING SIMILAR IN TOWN.

THIS GIRL WAS BORN ABOUT SIX MONTHS AFTER WE LEFT.

I THINK SHE'S YOUR—

DON'T SCREW WITH ME!!

THEN... SHE KNEW SHE WAS EXPECTIN' A KID BEFORE WE EVEN LEFT!?

THEN WHY DIDN'T SHE TRY TO STOP US FROM GOING?

SHE NEVER EVEN WROTE ME! NOT ONE LETTER!!

FOOOOO

DON (WHAP)

SHE MUST'VE BEEN SNEAKIN' AROUND WITH SOME OTHER GUY, AND HE WENT AND GOT HER PREGNANT!!

AND THEN SHE GOES AND DIES!!? JUST HOW SELFISH CAN A WOMAN GET!?

WHO DOES THIS BRAT THINK SHE IS!?

WA— (WHOOSH)

THAT'S MY MOTHER YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! I WON'T HEAR ANY MORE OF YOUR BAD-MOUTHING MY MOTHER!!

OH!

KI (GLARE)

YOU BETTER BACK AWAY WHILE YOU STILL CAN, KID..

I CAN'T EVEN EXPRESS HOW MUCH YOU IRRITATE ME!

"LA HIRE"? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

MELISSA IS YOUR LITTLE GIRL.

ÉTI...

FURU (TREMBLE)

GAKU (SLUMP)

I'M SORRY, MELISSA ...

MILENE DROVE ME OFF BECAUSE SHE WANTED ME TO HAVE MY FREEDOM ...

YEAH... YEAH, I KNOW. I KNOW IT...

FURA (SWAY)

MY... FATHER ...?

I'M... I'M YOUR FATHER...

ME-LISSA, WILL YOU COME WITH ME?

...I'M NOT GONNA LEAVE YOU BEHIND.

THIS TIME...

...THAT I WOULD PROTECT THIS GIRL... EVEN AT THE COST OF MY OWN LIFE...

YEAH...I MADE THE DECISION BACK THEN...

GUGH (STRAIN)

ME... LISSA...?

GOOOO (FWOOOM)

GAKU (SLUMP)

LORD LA HIRE!?

BA (TURN)

MELISSA...

WHY WOULD MELISSA CHOOSE TO BECOME LIKE LA PUCELLE...?

FURA (STAGGER)

OH NO...

THE GRAVE WOUNDS THAT HAD BOTH OF YOU ON THE BRINK OF DEATH WERE HEALED BY THE WISH SHE MADE.

SHUUUUU GSHHHHO

MON-SIEUR ANGEL?

I SUSPECT HIS CON-SCIOUS-NESS COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH HIS SUDDEN RECOV-ERY.

NO CAUSE FOR CON-CERN.

HOW DARE YOU ATTACK TART AND MY FATHER!?

ZAN CLASH!!

A NEW ENEMY?

WHAT'S THIS?

GA

GA

GA

GA CLASH

I! WILL! NOT!!

XHD

BO (SWOOSH)

ALLOW YOU TO GO UNPUN-ISHED!!

XHD

GO (WOOSH)

YOU WILL PAY!

ZA (SWOOSH)

BUKI (CRACK)

THIS IS...

BLUR (WHOOSH)

...YOUR PUNISH-MENT!!

GOSHAA (KSHOOM)

DOOO

TO (THMP)

BACHI (CRACKLE)

KSHAKO (KSHAH)

WHAT IS THAT THING?

SHUUUUU (FZSHHH)

ZURU (ZWIRL)

...IS BECAUSE SHE WAS ACTUALLY TARGETING THE FEATHERS THAT WERE PREVENTING THIS OTHER GIRL FROM FIGHTING?

SO THE REASON THAT NEW GIRL WAS ATTACKING WIDE...

GA (GRSH)

GA

TCH!!

GO (WOOMO)

YOU CAN MOVE NOW, RIGHT, RIZ?

BA (FWIP)

DA (DASH)

BA (WHOOSH)

GACHI (KACHANK)

KIIIIIN
CVWEEEEÑ

KIIIIN

GET BACK, RIZ!!

KYUN
(SHWOOM)

SHUUUUU (FZSHHHH)

IT DESTROYED PART OF THE BRIDGE.

MISSED ...

KATSU (TAK)

WHAT IS THIS MAGIC?

TA (TAMP)

KI (GLARE)

ASSUMING, OF COURSE... YOU CAN GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO HIT ME WITH IT.

YOU'VE GOT SOME INTER-ESTING MOVES, GREEN-HORN.

WITH THAT KIND OF POWER, YOU MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO TAKE ME DOWN.

MELISSA! RIZ!!

TATA (DASH)

PAA!!

YES.

MELISSA, YOU BECAME A MAGICAL GIRL...?

PAA (BEAM)

TART!

MONSIEUR ANGEL TOLD ME EVERY-THING.

HE SAID YOU MADE A CONTRACT AND USED YOUR WISH FOR MY SAKE.

THAT'S HOW I WANTED IT, TART. I DON'T REGRET A THING.

MY ONE WISH SAVED BOTH OF YOUR LIVES.

WHAT THE...? I THOUGHT I'D TAKEN CARE OF THE HOLY MAIDEN ALREADY... YOU BROUGHT HER BACK?

HEH!

NIH

CGRIND

YOU SEE, I'D LIKE THE PLEASURE OF KILLING ALL OF YOU MYSELF!

NOW THEN, HOW SHALL I KILL YOU THIS TIME!?

YES... NOW THE FUN IS BACK!!

I WAS A BIT DISAPPOINTED WHEN SHE GOT HERSELF KILLED TRYING TO PROTECT THAT TRASH, JUST WHEN I WAS ALL READY TO DELIVER THE COUP DE GRÂCE...

NIII GRIND

HA-HA! THAT'S JUST GRAND!!

CHAKI (KSHING)

WHILE WE'RE HERE, I WAS HOPING YOU MIGHT TELL ME SOME-THING.

THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH!

EH?

WHO GRANTED THE WISHES?

BUT HOW DID YOU BECOME A MAGICAL GIRL IN THE FIRST PLACE?

I KNOW YOUR NEWEST COMRADE USED HER WISH TO SAVE THE LIFE OF OUR LITTLE MISS "HOLY MAIDEN," HERE, YES?

IT WAS...

CHIRA (GLANCE)

チラ

SHE DOESN'T REC-OGNIZE CUBE!?

WHAT DOES THAT ANIMAL HAVE TO DO WITH IT?

WHAT'S THAT WHITE CREA-TURE?

HUH?

KOKU (NOD)

FLÈCHE! YOU'RE HERE TO BACK ME UP!

ON VAS FAIRE LA FÊTES! (LET'S START THE PARTY!)

SHALL WE PLAY? I'LL TAKE ON ALL THREE OF YOU!

INFORMATION EXTRACTION IS MINOU'S SPECIALTY.

WELL, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER. ALL I HAVE TO DO IS LEAVE ONE OF YOU ALIVE, AND WE'LL GET OUR ANSWERS FROM HER.

ZURUUU (SHLOOOP)

GASHI (GRAB)

ZURU

PI (THWIP)

HYU (SWSH)

BEHIND ME!?

YOU USE VERY INTER-ESTING MAGIC!!

SO YOU CAN JUMP FROM SHADOW TO SHADOW?

PASHI (CATCH)

ZUDU

DOPUN (SHLOOP)

ドゥーン…

BA (WHIRL)

YOU LITTLE ...!

BI (FWSH)

HYU (WHIP)

BO (BWOOSH)

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOM-PLISH WITH ALL THAT FLITTING AROUND !?

YOU CAN FORCE OTHERS TO TAKE ON THE IMPURITIES BROUGHT ON MY NORMAL MAGICAL USE.

ZUBUBUBU CZUURRRCHO

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT ME WITH THOSE COWARDLY ATTACKS WHILE YOU RUN CIRCLES AROUND ME?

NO...

I AM MERELY TESTING THE LIMITS OF THAT POWER.

HUH? SO WHAT IF IT DOES!?

FROM THIS, I HAVE DETERMINED THAT AT THE FARTHEST, YOUR POWER ONLY EXTENDS FORTY AUNE.

THE TACTICS I JUST EMPLOYED WERE TESTS TO SEE HOW FAR YOUR POWERS EXTEND BY OBSERVING WHERE YOU CHOSE TO AVOID OR TAKE THE IMPACT OF THESE WEAK ATTACKS.

*ONE AUNE IS ABOUT 4 FEET OR 1.2 METERS.

NO.

THAT ISN'T MY PLAN AT ALL.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO MAINTAIN THAT DISTANCE FOREVER?

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU COULD GIVE ME SOME FUN!

GOOD! GOOD!

...IT'S ALL OVER FOR YOU!

NOW THAT I KNOW YOUR SECRET ...

ZA ZEWMAD

Chapter 10

WHAT'S THE HOLD UP!?

COME ON! COME ON!

GA (SLASH)

DON (CHARGE)

FOR ALL THAT BIG TALK, YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT DEFEND!

GA (DSHH)

GA

GA

GIIN CLANG

HYU

HYUN SWISH

BUT I ADMIT, I'M IMPRESSED YOU'RE ABLE TO RUN LIKE THAT WITH SUCH EXTENSIVE INJURIES!

HA HA...

TO (TMP)

THAT IS THE ENTIRE REASON I BROUGHT FLÈCHE, YOU KNOW.

YOU STILL MEAN TO ATTACK ME FROM OUTSIDE MY "RANGE"?

SO TELL ME— HOW IS IT "ALL OVER" FOR ME?

ZURA (BLOOD)

...IS SOME-THING I CANNOT GUARAN-TEE.

STILL, WHETHER YOU WILL FIND THIS "FUN" OR NOT...

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY. I WILL NOT BORE YOU ANY FURTHER.

ZUO (ZWOOM)

BOTH OF YOU, THIS IS IT!!

ZA CZSHO

GO GRUNCH!

TCH!?

HYU (WHOOSH)

TAN (LEAP)

FLÈCHE !!

DA CDASH!

MA-CHETTE !!

SHIN-MUCOSA

GA CHAKO

THAT'S AWFULLY IMPERTI-NENT OF YOU!

SO YOUR PLAN WAS TO SPLIT UP AND TRY A TWO-PRONGED ATTACK?

ZOBU CLASH

GYAR GYAR GYARI

GUH!

DO CHI-ANO

MY ARM... MY ARM!!

GAH...

SO IS THIS ALL YOUR PLAN AMOUNTED TO? NOT VERY EFFEC-TIVE!

HOW IT MUST GALL YOU THAT YOU DIDN'T DAMAGE MY SOUL GEM EVEN A LITTLE!

SHUUUUU (FZSHHH)

BUT THAT WAS GOOD! TRULY GOOD!!

PERO (LICK)

AHHH... JUST A LITTLE DEEPER, AND THE ARM WOULD HAVE COME OFF!

KOKU (NOD)

KEEP UP THE ATTACK JUST AS YOU HAVE BEEN!

I CAN'T SAY WE'RE PARTIC-ULARLY WORRIED ABOUT THAT. MELIS-SA!

...EVERY LITTLE BIT OF IT WILL COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU!

BUT NOW YOU UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU? NO MATTER HOW YOU MAY HURT ME...

FLÈCHE, GO AHEAD AND OPEN UP ANOTHER HOLE IN THE HOLY MAIDEN, IF YOU WOULD?

SINCE IT'S COME TO THIS, I HAVE NO CHOICE.

SENDING A GIRL UP AGAINST SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY PUT HER AT DEATH'S DOOR ONCE.

YOU'VE PUT LA PUCELLE IN AN EVEN WORSE POSI-TION, YOU KNOW.

TART!

I HAVE A PLAN TO TAKE OUT OUR ENEMY.

ARE WE... INSIDE THE SHADOWS?

WE CAN'T SPEND MUCH TIME IN HERE.

TART, MELISSA.

DOPHIN BLOOD!

#70

YOU'RE THE KEY TO THE ENTIRE PLAN.

GYU SQUEEZE

TART, TAKE THIS, PLEASE.

TA (LUNGE)

TO (LEAD)

"WE'RE LEAVING THIS BATTLE IN YOUR HANDS."

GAGAGAGAGA (SKIIIID)

WHAT !?

GAGAGAGA
(SKRAMMEL)

CHWANG
(DON)

CHWANG
(DON)

BO

BI

BI

BI (CLWIP)

DA

DA

DA

DA

DA (TMP)

SHE'S IN OVER HER HEAD!

HA-HA... I KNEW THE HOLY MAIDEN COULDN'T HANDLE IT ON HER OWN!

GA

GA (WHAK)

I'M SORRY. WHO DID YOU SAY WAS FAILING HERE, AGAIN?

YOUR PLAN'S A COMPLETE FAILURE, SHADOW GIRL!!

WHAT !?

SHUUUUUU (FSHHH)

SUTO (LEAP)

...THAT AFTER HER REVIVAL, TART'S MAGIC HAS BECOME EVEN MORE POWERFUL.

I SEE YOU DIDN'T REALIZE ...

NOT A MARK ON HER!?

SHUUUU

THAT'S NOT POSSI-BLE!! NOT IN SO SHORT A TIME!!

PERHAPS THE FACT THAT TART WAS RECALLED FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH BY MELISSA'S WISH...

...WAS ALWAYS PART OF HER FATE, AS DECREED BY TART'S WISH...

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT BECAUSE MELISSA'S WISH ALTERED HER DESTINY—THAT IS, HER DEATH—TART HAS BEEN BURDENED WITH AN EVEN GREATER DESTINY.

STILL, IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE THAT WOULD CAUSE A MAGICAL GIRL'S POWER TO INCREASE TO SUCH A DEGREE...

FLÈCHE!

ENOUGH OF THIS...

USE YOUR FULL MAGIC, AS IF YOU INTEND TO DRAIN YOURSELF DRY!!

NO MORE HOLDING BACK!!

ZU

ZU (ZWAAAM)

ZU

BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT!

ドクン

DOKUN

HERE IT COMES!!

ドクン

DOKUN
(BADUM)

BUT SHOULD MY CONTRIBUTION BE LIMITED TO STANDING AT THE FRONT OF THE LINE, WAVING THE STANDARD OF FRANCE?

I...HAVE NEVER BEEN ON A BATTLEFIELD BEFORE.

HAAH...

FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE SOLDIERS FIGHTING FOR FRANCE...

WAVING THE STANDARD... EVEN THAT SEEMINGLY SMALL ROLE WOULD BE ENOUGH.

IS THAT WHAT YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT?

KIIIIN
GLEEEAM

RIGHT NOW, THE WEAPON I TRUST MOST IS...

THE EXPRESSIONS ON THE SOLDIERS' FACES?

YOU SAW THEM ON THE BATTLEFIELD, RIGHT?

YES...

...WOULD BE THE VERY EMBODIMENT OF THE WORD "HOPE."

...THE SIGHT OF YOU STANDING BEFORE THEM AND WAVING THE FLAG...

ZA GWOŹDŹ

THEY ALL TRUSTED IN THAT HOPE, SO I WILL TOO!!

...aww'

...e,

DO GWOŹDZIA

ZUZU

TRUST THIS STAN-DARD AND LANCE!

Vaillans Drapeau

— WITH THIS VALIANT STANDARD

riens impossible

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

MOD

BO OKAMOTO

LA LUMIERE!!

GOOOOO
(SHWOOO)

HAAH...
HUH?

TART!
THAT WAS
AMAZING!!

WHAT
WAS
THAT
...!?

I
WOULDN'T
HAVE
BELIEVED
THAT LEVEL
OF POWER
IF I HADN'T
SEEN IT!!

AND AFTER
RIZ TOLD ME
TO AVOID
DAMAGING
THE FORT
AS MUCH AS
POSSIBLE...

URGH...

HOW-EVER...

ZUU

SHUU SHOOSH

IF I HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN THAT BLAST, EVEN I COULDN'T HAVE STOOD AGAINST IT!

YOUR HOLY MAIDEN IS TRULY FEAR-SOME!

NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS YOU.

EEYAAAH!!

GA KRSHH

AS LONG AS I'M FIGHTING SO CLOSE TO YOU TWO, SHE WON'T BE USING THAT ATTACK, WILL SHE!?

GO
(WHAM)

UNGH!!

FRUSTA!

GUI
(YANK)

ZUZA
(SKID)

BIN
(ZHANG)

WHAT
!?

GYURURU
(WHIRL)

ME-
LISSA,
NOW!!

ZA
(SLASH)

KA
(FLASH)

OW...

GURA
(LURCH)

GOSHA
(GRNCH)

DO
(BOOM)

GAAAH!!

ZUIZA (SKOSH)

HEH... HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

KARAN (CLATTER)

HEH HEH...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH DAMAGE YOU DO TO ME, THE CONSE-QUENCES WILL ONLY FALL UPON YOUR HEADS RIGHT AFTER.

BUT I HAVE TO WONDER IF YOU'VE FORGOT-TEN...

THIS IS HOW A FIGHT TO THE DEATH IS SUPPOSED TO BE!

YURA (SWAY)

THIS IS GOOD! THIS EXQUI-SITE PAIN!!

SHUUU (PSHH)

BASA (FLAP)

AND IT APPEARS THE HOLY MAIDEN IS THE ONLY ONE OUT-SIDE THE RANGE OF MY POWER!

YOU WOULDN'T WANT YOUR NEXT ATTACK TO KILL US ALL, WOULD YOU?

HUH?

DIDN'T I TELL YOU I HAD FIGURED OUT YOUR MAGIC?

YOU WEREN'T LISTEN-ING, FOOL.

MY SOUL GEM!! HOW!?

JUWAA (OOZE)

WHAT IS GOING ON!?

DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M FEELING BENEVOLENT ENOUGH TO SPELL IT OUT FOR THE BENEFIT OF MY ENEMY?

YOU WITCH! WHAT DID YOU DO!?

WHY DOES IT HAVE IM-PURI-TIES!?

WHAT IS THIS I?

KIRA (GLEAM)

GYU... (SQUEEZE)

TART... MELISSA... WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY MAY SHOCK YOU...

...BUT I NEED YOU TO STAY CALM AND JUST LISTEN...

BOTH OF YOUR SOUL GEMS?

WHAT... DO I DO WITH THEM?

BEFORE I TELL YOU, I WANT YOU TO TAKE MY SOUL GEM, TART.

MELISSA, YOU TOO. TAKE OFF YOUR SOUL GEM AND GIVE IT TO TART.

カチャ
KACHA
CKACHIKO

YOUR ACTUAL SOULS!?

THEY ARE OUR SOULS. MINE AND MELISSA'S.

JUST HOLD ON TO THEM. KEEP THEM SAFE.

...AND USE HER MAGIC TO HEAL HERSELF WHILE FORCING THE IMPURITIES ON US...

... CORBEAU CAN DO WHAT SHE DID BEFORE ...

ON THE OTHER HAND, AS LONG AS OUR SOUL GEMS ARE KEPT ON OUR PERSONS...

YOU'RE KIDDING!

IF THEY ARE DESTROYED ...

YES...THE MOMENT WE MAKE OUR CONTRACTS WITH CUBE, OUR SOULS ARE TAKEN FROM OUR BODIES AND PLACED WITHIN THESE SOUL GEMS.

...WE MAGICAL GIRLS WILL DIE.

IT'S A SOUL!

はぁな PAA (GLOW) っ!

TH-THIS IS AMAZ-ING!!

EH?

TART...

SO THESE... ARE OUR ACTUAL SOULS...?

FURU (TRMBL)

SO MONSIEUR ANGEL IS A REAL ANGEL!!

I NEVER THOUGHT OUR INVISIBLE SPIRITS COULD BE PUT INTO PRECIOUS STONES!

PAAAA

THIS IS THE VERY SOUL THAT IS REDEEMED BY OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!!

OOH!!

O-OKAY...

JUNH

YOU WILL KEEP OUR SOUL GEMS AND FIGHT WITH THAT ARCHER.

NOW LISTEN, TART...

THIS TRULY IS AN ACT OF GOD—

TART, FOCUS!

URK!

BISHI (THWAP)

*EIGHTY AUNE IS ABOUT 109 YARDS OR 100 METERS.

...WE CAN STILL FUNCTION AS NORMAL UP TO A RANGE OF ABOUT EIGHTY AUNE.

EVEN IF WE ARE SEPARATED FROM OUR SOUL GEMS...

WE KNOW THAT HER ARCHER IS PROVIDING COVER SUPPORT FROM OUTSIDE CORBEAU'S RANGE.

The Fort of Les Tourelles

AND THE RANGE OF CORBEAU'S POWERS IS A CIRCLE CENTERED AROUND HER WITH A RADIUS OF ABOUT FORTY AUNE (ABOUT FIFTY METERS OR 164 FEET).

Fort at bridge midpoint

50m

To Orléans

Loire River

100m

...THIS MEANS OUR LIVES WILL LITERALLY BE IN YOUR HANDS.

TART...

YOU MUST FIGHT WITHOUT GETTING NEAR OR TOO FAR FROM US.

MELISSA AND I WILL ENSURE CORBEAU NEVER GETS NEAR YOU, TART.

IT WILL JUST BE YOU AGAINST THE ARCHER.

I WILL DIVERT CORBEAU'S ATTENTION, AND IN THAT TIME, YOU WILL MAKE YOUR ATTACK.

YOU AND I ARE PARTNERS!!

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHAT YOU SAID AT THE BEGINNING OF OUR JOURNEY!

GU CCLENCHD

DON'T YOU WORRY!

YOU CAN TRUST YOUR SOULS WITH ME!!

I WILL! THE TWO OF YOU TOO! RIZ! MELISSA !!

YOU BE CAREFUL, TART!!

TART...

(GOOOO RRRUMBL)

U... UNGH...

AND HERE I'D PLANNED TO GATHER UP WHAT WAS LEFT OF YOU, GIVEN HOW EFFECTIVE YOU WERE AGAINST LA PUCELLE.

HEE HEE!

カツ

KATSU (TAK)

OH MY... LOOKS LIKE IT ONLY GRAZED YOU.

AHN... URN...

BUT YOU WON'T LAST LONG, WILL YOU?

AAAAA!

...RIGHT UP TO THE VERY END, WASN'T IT?

WELL, IT WAS ALWAYS YOUR WISH TO SERVE YOUR BETTERS ...

BWUN OHOOHO

THIS IS YOUR FINALE.

TELL ME, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE DEFEATED BY YOUR OWN POWER?

KACHA CHAKA

IT'S DIRTY... POLLUT-ED!!

BURU

MY SOUL GEM !!

BURU (TREMBLE)

FURU

FURU (SHUDDER)

FURU

HAAAAAH!♥

BEING CORNERED LIKE THIS IS A PLEASURE I'VE HARDLY EVER FELT!!

BURU

BURU

YOU ARE THE FIRST TO EVER TARNISH MY GEM!!

WONDERFUL! FANTASTIC!

BUWA (LURCH)

IF I STAY OUT TOO LATE, MY SISTERS WILL START TO WORRY!

I WANTED TO PLAY SOME MORE, BUT I CAN'T NOW.

...COR-BEAU, MY DEAR ELDER SISTER.

THAT IS QUITE FAR ENOUGH...

KATSUTAKO

MINOU!?

WHO IS THIS!?

YOU KNOW YOU SHOULD NOT BE USING THAT WHILE THERE ARE STILL ENGLISH TROOPS IN THE VICINITY OF THE FORT.

YOU'VE BEEN A BAD GIRL.

YOU CAN'T DO THIS, MINOU! IF YOU GET NEAR ME, YOUR SOUL GEM...!!

.....

RIZ... WHAT WILL WE DO?

LAPIN WAS EVER SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF OVER THAT.

AFTER ALL, YOU ARE FIGHTING FOR ALL OF OUR SAKES, ARE YOU NOT?

MINOU ...

"OTHER GIRL"? YOU MEAN FLÈCHE?

SHALL WE LEAVE THE REST TO THE OTHER GIRL?

...YOU SHOULD NOT PUSH YOURSELF SO HARD.

COR-BEAU...

YOU GIVE AN ELDER SISTER SUCH PRIDE!

YOU'RE SUCH A THOUGHT-FUL YOUNGER SISTER!

HEH HEH...

GUI (HUG)

I-I DON'T BELIEVE IT...IT'S A MONSTER ...

WHA ...!?

ZAWA (MURMUR)

WHAT... IS THAT!?

I WANTED TO PLAY WITH YOU A LITTLE LONGER, BUT I CANNOT KEEP MY COMRADES WAITING.

SORRY ABOUT THIS, SHADOW WIELDER.

ZA (ZSH)

DO YOU THINK I'LL STAND ASIDE TO LET A WOUNDED ENEMY GET AWAY?

SUUUUU (SHWOOO)

WE SHALL MEET AGAIN SOON...

DOOOOOO
(RRRUMBLE)

...ASSUMING YOU CAN DEFEAT HER, THAT IS.

IS THAT...

...THE ARCHER !?

A WITCH !?

VOOO

VOVOO OWHOOOWO

GICHI (KRRCHK)

GIRI (KRRK)

OH NO, YOU DON'T!!

DAN (LEAP)

THIS IS NOT GOOD! IT IS AIMING AT ORLEANS!!

I WILL PRO-TECT THIS TOWN!!

GURUN (TWIRL)

GOO (WHAAAM)

DO

DO

DO
(DSHH)

GIN
(GRIND)

KNHH!!

DO

DO

DO
(TWANG)

DO

ZUGA
(SWANG)

!?

KYU
(GRIP)

BASHAAAN (SPLOOOSH)

SUTA (THMP)

BOOOON (BOOOOOM)

EH?

SU (SSIO) DO

NO... THIS TIME, IT WASN'T JUST ME...

HI! PTP!!

ZAAAA (FSHHH)

YOU DID IT, TART!!

SHUUUUU (FZZSH)

TA TA (TMP)

THAT WAS AN EXCELLENT SHOT.

HMPH!

ZA (ZSH)

NO, THE CONSTABLE HAS THE RIGHT OF IT. YOU WERE EXCELLENT !!

IT WAS NOT MY INTENTION TO INVOLVE MYSELF IN THE FRAY, BUT...

HM...

THAT IS TOO MUCH PRAISE, UNCLE.

IT WAS INDEED A SPLENDID SIGHT, LADY ELISA!!

A MAG-NIFICENT DISPLAY OF SPIRIT, YET SIMULTANE-OUSLY BEAUTIFUL AND REFINED.

AHEM!

IT HAS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE TO WATCH YOU GROW UP, AND IT MAKES ME PROUD TO SEE HOW MATURE YOU'VE BECOME...

YOU HAVE MAJESTY AND HEART!

BUWA (TEARY)

AFTER ALL, IS IT NOT THE DUTY OF THE NOBILITY TO LEND A HAND TO COMMONFOLK SUFFERING UNDER THE FISTS OF THEIR OPPRESSORS?

NWA HO HO!

HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE MANY OBSTACLES BEFORE US IF WE ARE TO JOIN THE FRENCH ARMY.

YES.

I WOULD CERTAINLY EXPECT FRANCE'S COUNTER-ATTACK TO OVER-WHELM THE ENEMY.

AND I SEE LITTLE TO DOUBT THE TIDE HAS INDEED TURNED.

I EXPECT THIS HAS SECURED THE FATE OF ORLÉANS.

AND WHILE I'M AT IT, I'LL INTRODUCE MYSELF TO THAT USELESS "LA PUCELLE" AS WELL.

WELL, YOU MAY LEAVE THAT TO ME. I SHALL OFFER MY GREETINGS TO THE DAUPHIN CHARLES IN PERSON.

BASA (FLAP)

Chapter 11

—The Holy Roman Empire—

The Holy Roman Empire covered a number of territories, including the Kingdom of Germany, the northern part of the Kingdom of Italy, and the Kingdom of Bohemia, along with various lands owned by nobles and the church, bringing all under one leadership to make up the greatest power in all of Western Europe in the Early Middle Ages.

These were originally one kingdom ruled by the Franks, but in 843, they separated into three kingdoms. East, Central, and West. The West became the Kingdom of France, the Central went to the Kingdom of Italy, and the East became the Kingdom of Germany.

It was the Kingdom of Germany that became the center of the Holy Roman Empire.

Elise's Choice

—The Order of the Dragon—

Around the year 1429, the Holy Roman Emperor was Sigismund, who was also the King of Hungary and the King of Bohemia.

In 1408, Sigismund and his wife, Barbara Celjska, founded the Order of the Dragon as a means of protecting the Christian world. The Order mainly stood in opposition to the expansion of the Ottoman Empire and their religion, Islam.

The Order of the Dragon was comprised of the highest nobility of Hungary and most accomplished knights and warriors of other countries. As a side note, the Prince of Wallachia, Vlad Tepes ("The Impaler"), who was the basis for the legend of Dracula, was himself a member of the Order of the Dragon later on in his life.

MAY 8TH, 1429, OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF ORLÉANS

THE DAY AFTER THE FRENCH TOOK THE TOURELLES, BOTH THE FRENCH ARMY—WHICH HAD SUDDENLY TURNED THE TIDE OF THE SIEGE—AND THE ENGLISH ARMY—WHICH HAD SEEN DEMORALIZING LOSSES—GATHERED UP THEIR REMAINING FORCES AND STOOD ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE, FACING EACH OTHER.

AND NOW SHE STANDS ON THE FRONT LINES...

IT WAS SOME KINDA MIRACLE OR SOME-THIN'.

YOU KNOW, I CAN'T SAY I GET ALL OF WHAT HAP-PENED, BUT MELISSA SAVED MY LIFE.

HM? SURE...

BUT YOU'RE COMING OFF A HARD DAY. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

FINALLY! WE GET TO FACE THE ENGLISH SQUARE-LY ON THE BATTLE-FIELD!

WHAT'S THAT? ONE OF THE ENGLISH MEN HAS BROKEN FROM THEIR LINES AND IS HEAD-ING THIS WAY...

THEY SHOULD REALIZE BY NOW THAT THEY CANNOT WIN IN A FAIR FIGHT...

I WONDER. I DON'T SEE ANY MAGICAL GIRLS ON THEIR SIDE.

BUT WHAT I'M MORE NERVOUS ABOUT IS WHETHER THAT MASKED WOMAN OR THAT HUGE MONSTER IS GONNA SHOW UP AGAIN.

ONLY... ONE OF THEM?

AND I WONDER IF YOU'D LET ME SPEAK WITH THIS "LA PUCELLE" OF YOURS TOO?

I AM JOHN TALBOT, COMMANDER OF THE ENGLISH FORCES.

I FORMALLY REQUEST A MEETING WITH YOUR LEADER, LORD BÂTARD.

THIS IS A PARLEY. NO WEAPONS.

AH! ...Y-YES!

LA PUCELLE, DO YOU AGREE?

ZAWA

ZAWA

ZAWA

YOU'RE ASKING FOR PARLEY? UNDERSTOOD.

THANK YOU FOR MEETING WITH ME, MY LORD BÂTARD.

NOW, THEN...

YES.

WE ADMIT WE PRESENTLY DON'T HAVE THE FORCES AT OUR DISPOSAL TO STAND UP TO YOUR LA PUCELLE.

WAIT, YOU'RE ACTUALLY... SERIOUS ABOUT THIS?

DEN (BLUNT)

WE'VE LOST THIS BATTLE.

...I'M JUST GOING TO GET TO THE POINT.

WHAT!?

WE ASK YOUR LEAVE TO QUIT THE FIELD.

HUH!?

WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, LA PUCELLE?

YUSA (JIGGLE)

YUSA

SO I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, WHAT BETTER DAY COULD THERE BE FOR CALLING AN END TO A FRUITLESS BATTLE?

NIKO (SMILE)

BESIDES, THIS IS A DAY OF REST.

*THE DAY OF REST: JUDEO-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS SET ASIDE ONE DAY A WEEK AS A SABBATH, A HOLY DAY FOR REST AND SPIRITUAL CONTEMPLATION. EVEN DURING WARTIME, THIS DAY WOULD, IN THEORY, BE A MUTUALLY AGREED UPON CEASEFIRE.

HA HA!

I EXPECT IN TIMES OF PEACE YOU'RE JUST A SWEET, NORMAL GIRL.

HA-HA! IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE THE SAME PEERLESS WARRIOR WHO FOUGHT JUST YESTER-DAY.

I FULLY AGREE!

Y-YES, ABSO-LUTELY!

I LEARNED A LOT FROM WATCHING YOU FIGHT.

BUT WHEN YOU PICK UP THE SWORD, YOU BECOME ENGLAND'S GREATEST ENEMY.

I HOPE I HAVE A CHANCE TO WITNESS YOUR GALLANTRY ON THE BATTLEFIELD AGAIN, LA PUCELLE.

PI (SHWIP)

VERY WELL! I'M SURE WE'LL MEET AGAIN VERY SOON.

Y-YES. FEEL FREE TO CLEAR OFF.

WELL, WE'LL MAKE OUR RETREAT NOW IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, MY LORD BÂTARD.

SU (SHF)

NO, WAIT...

THERE WERE FOUR. THERE'S NO CHANCE WE COULD FACE THEM AND WIN.

CHIDRA STANCE

IT WOULD BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO STAND AGAINST THREE WARRIORS WITH THAT KIND OF POWER...

PHEW.

ZA (ZSH)

FURU (TREMBLE)

DID WE JUST WIN THIS?

WHAT WAS THAT...?

BA (WHOOSH)

WE HAVE FINALLY LIBERATED ORLÉANS!

グイッ

GUI (RUB)

THIS IS OUR VICTORY !!

YES... WE DID!

WAAAAAAA (CHEEEER)

IT'S A VICTORY FOR THE FRENCH ARMY!!

IT SEEMS TALBOT HAS BECOME AWARE OF US.

WAAAAAA

WAAAAAA

AAAAA

I THINK HE IS PERHAPS THE BEST ACTIVE GENERAL IN ALL OF ENGLAND.

INDEED.

HE'S SHARPER THAN HE LOOKS.

YES ...

WAAAA

I MAY BE CONSTABLE, BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP THAT SNIVELING, PANDERING—NO...I HAVE BEEN EXPELLED BY MY LIEGE. YOU FLATTER ME TOO MUCH.

CONSTABLE OF FRANCE
ARTHUR DE RICHEMONT

JUST AS YOU, CONSTABLE, ARE THE BEST IN FRANCE.

PER-HAPS...I CANNOT DENY IT.

THERE IS NOTHING MORE IRKSOME TO THOSE IN POWER THAN A MAN OF YOUR MANY TALENTS.

RICHEMONT, YOU ARE NOT ONLY AN EXCELLENT GENERAL, BUT A SKILLED POLITICIAN AS WELL.

I WILL RETURN TO MY OWN LANDS AND AWAIT OUR NEXT CHANCE TO MEET.

I'M AFRAID SO. MY PRESENCE WOULD ONLY MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO SECURE AN AUDIENCE WITH HIS MAJESTY CHARLES.

DOES THIS MEAN WE WILL BE DEPRIVED OF YOUR COMPANY FOR A TIME, CONSTABLE?

NOW, UNCLE OSWALD, SHALL WE GO?

HM? WHAT DID THAT MEAN...?

SH (SHIFF)

DO NOT WORRY. I KNOW WE WILL CROSS PATHS AGAIN *VERY SOON.*

.....

AUF WIEDER-SEHEN.

ZAA (FSHHH)

IT IS WELL FRANCE CELEBRATES ITS VICTORY TO THE UTMOST WHILE THEY HAVE THE CHANCE!

I FEAR WAR IS AN INEVITABILITY.

FRANCE CANNOT CARRY ON AS IT HAS BEEN.

THAT WAS HOW LA PUCELLE BROKE AND OVERTURNED THE SEVEN-MONTH SIEGE OF ORLÉANS BY ENGLISH FORCES.

TO SHINE ONCE AGAIN."

FROM THE EPIC POEM DITIÉ DE JEANNE D'ARC
(THE SONG OF JOAN OF ARC) *BY CHRISTINE DE PISAN*

AT THE CENTER OF THE WILDLY-CHEERING CROWDS STANDS A YOUNG GIRL—THE CATALYST THAT BROUGHT ABOUT THE MIRACULOUS LIBERATION.

HER FAME SPREAD THROUGHOUT FRANCE, BRINGING THE LIGHT OF HOPE ALONG WITH IT.

A POET LIVING AT THE TIME CAPTURED THE IMPACT OF THIS MIRACLE:

"IN 1429, THE SUN BEGAN

ZAWA

ZAWA

ZAWA
(CHATTER)

SU
(SIGH)

ALMOST LIKE A FAIR!

THERE IS STILL A LOT OF COMMO-TION OUT HERE FOR HOW LATE IT IS.

...EH!? OF COURSE!

THANK YOU, MELISSA, FOR SAVING TART.

I CAN'T THINK OF A HAPPIER FUTURE...

...THAN TO BE OF SOME USE TO TART.

A BLEAK FUTURE ...?

...WILL FIGHT ALONG-SIDE THEM AS A MAGICAL GIRL!

...I TOO ...

...BUT EVEN SO, YOU CHOSE TO FIGHT ALONG-SIDE US.

BECOMING A MAGICAL GIRL WILL MEAN A FUTURE THAT'S EVEN BLEAKER THAN YOU MIGHT IMAGINE...

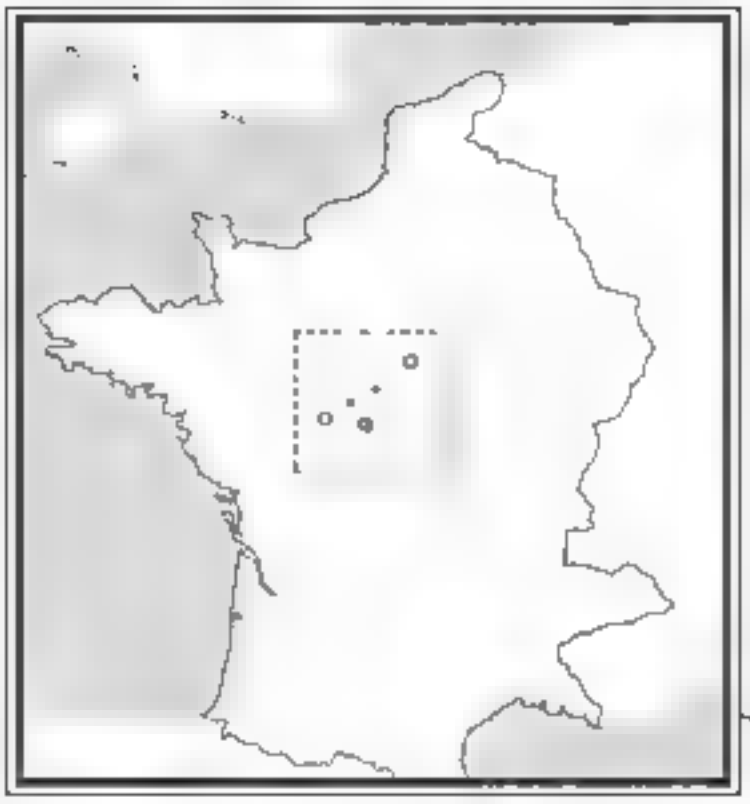
I SUP-POSE SO...

THAT YOUNG GIRL WILL REMAIN THE GREATEST BEACON OF HOPE FOR THIS WHOLE COUNTRY.

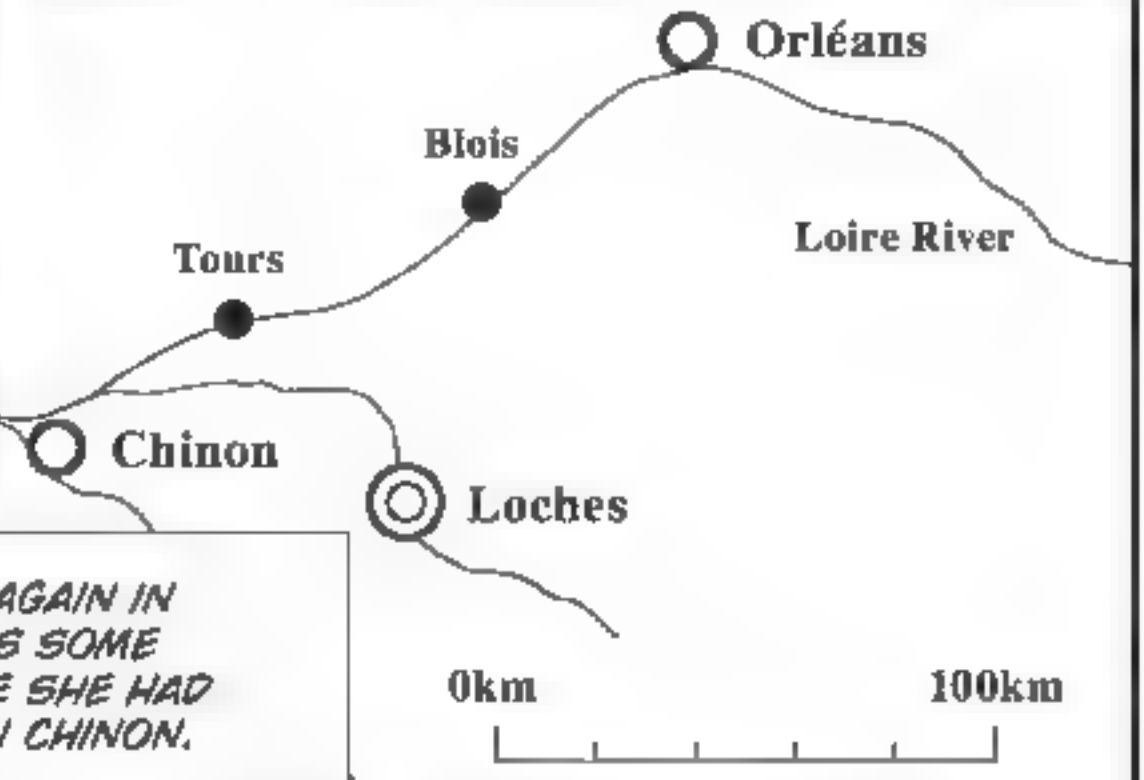
SO WE SHOULD WALK THAT PATH AT HER SIDE.

THE PATH TART IS ON IS ONE THAT WILL BRING THE LIGHT OF HOPE TO AN ENTIRE NATION. AND WHEN I THINK OF THAT...

...I'M SURE I WILL NEVER REGRET THIS DECI-SION.



MAY 9TH, 1429.
THE DAY AFTER THE LIBERATION OF ORLÉANS, TART AND HER RETINUE DEPARTED ORLÉANS AMID THE UNDIMINISHED REVELRY AND MADE THEIR WAY TO SEE THE DAUPHIN CHARLES.



ON MAY 11TH, SHE MET WITH HIM AGAIN IN THE TOWN OF LOCHES. LOCHES IS SOME 50KM EAST OF THE TOWN WHERE SHE HAD HER FIRST AUDIENCE WITH HIM IN CHINON.

YES! I WANTED TO RELAY THE GOOD NEWS OF ORLÉANS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

TA (TAP)

LA PUCELLE! WE WELCOME YOU BACK INTO OUR PRE-SENCE!

GEN-TLE DAU-PHIN!

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIS MAJESTY COME OUT TO MEET A SUBJECT IN PERSON BEFORE ...

GASHI (CLASP)

ENOUGH. WE HAVE ALREADY HEARD!

SU (SHF)

...AND I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE FRENCH ARMY HAS—

GENTLE DAUPHIN! I HAVE JUST COME FROM ORLÉANS...

YOU HAVE TRULY...

...DONE A MAGNIFICENT JOB, LA PUCELLE.

YOUR MAJ-ESTY !?

SHE IS NOT WORTHY ...!!

!?

YOUR VICTORY WAS SPLENDID!

THE DUKE OF ALEN-ÇON!!

I WISH TO OFFER MY CONGRATU-LATIONS AS WELL.

ZA (SKSH)

DUKE OF ALENÇON
JEAN D'ALENÇON II
"THE FAIR DUKE"

HISTORY RECORDS THAT JEANNE MET JEAN D'ALENÇON THE DAY AFTER HER FIRST AUDIENCE WITH THE DAUPHIN. HE GAVE HER A WHITE HORSE FOR HER JOURNEY TO ORLÉANS.

SO YOU HAVE ALREADY HEARD OF THE EVENTS OF ORLÉANS?

BUT WE DEPARTED AS QUICKLY AS WE COULD TO REPORT TO YOU...

MY MOST HUMBLE THANKS, DUKE OF ALENÇON.

IT WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY JUST KNOWING THE HORSE I PROVIDED AIDED YOUR VICTORY EVEN THE SMALLEST BIT.

PEKO (BOW)

YES.

ACTUALLY, WE RECEIVED THE REPORT AHEAD OF YOUR ARRIVAL FROM HER LADYSHIP HERE.

SU (SSK).

NO NEED TO TROUBLE YOURSELF, YOUR MAJESTY.

IF YOU'LL ALLOW US TO MAKE INTRO-DUCTIONS, THIS IS—

すっ SU (SHFF)

PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAIN-TANCE, LA PUCELLE.

JUST AS I WAS TAUGHT BY MY BELOVED GRANDMAMA!

I AM PROUD OF MY NAME AND WILL PROCLAIM IT TO ANYONE WHO WOULD KNOW IT, NO MATTER HOW LOWBORN!

. . . ?

OH DEAR! A THOU-SAND APOLO-GIES!

I SAID THAT I WOULD BE THE ONE TO SAY MY NAME!

くわっ KUWA (GRAWR)

UNCLE OSWALD!! YOU'RE RUINING IT!!

OHOHOHOHO (BAWWWL)

およよ

THAT WAS POSI-TIVELY STIR-RING, LADY ELISA!!

およよ

I WILL NOW REVEAL MY NAME AS PROM-ISED!!

BASA (FLAP)

KYURU (TWIRL)

I AM THE DAUGHTER OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR, SIGISMUND, AND HIS CELEBRATED WIFE, BARBARA CELJSKA!

AND...

...I AM ALSO THE MAGICAL GIRL WHO SAVED YOU DURING YOUR BATTLE WITH THE WITCH IN ORLÉANS!

KA (TAK)

AND A PROUD MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE DRAGON, ELISA CELJSKA!

...THAT YOU, MY LADY LA PUCELLE, WILL BECOME FAST FRIENDS WITH MY LADY ELISA!

I TOO WOULD LIKE TO OFFER MY SINCERE HOPE...

YOU HAVE MY GREET-INGS!

SU (SHP)

AH, DO FORGIVE ME. I AM OSWALD.

AND LIKE LADY ELISA, I AM IN THE ORDER OF THE DRA-GON.

Y-YES, YOUR HONOR ...

I OFFER MY HUMBLE GREETINGS.

MUSICIAN, ADVENTURER,
AND ENVOY TO THE HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR
OSWALD VON WOLKENSTEIN

AND SO...

YOUR MAJESTY, I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR KEEPING YOU IN SUSPENSE.

BUT I FELT IT WOULD BE BETTER DISCUSSED ONCE LA PUCELLE HAD ARRIVED.

NOW, OSWALD ...

...ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU TELL US...

...WHY YOU HAVE COME TO OUR COURT?

Oh... hein!

WE HAVE COME TO OFFER OUR SUPPORT FOR YOUR MAJESTY...

...IN YOUR BID TO RULE ALL OF FRANCE.

HRE Border

Kingdom of England

Kingdom of Poland

Holy Roman Empire Area of Influence, Fifteenth Century

Kingdom of France

Kingdom of Hungary

Kingdom of Naples

States of the Roman Catholic Church

...IS A RIFT SHE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO MEND.

BUT THIS SEEMINGLY ENDLESS WAR BETWEEN FRANCE AND ENGLAND ...

THE GREATEST WISH OF MY MOTHER, BARBARA, IS THE STABILITY OF ALL OF EUROPE.

HAVE YOU!?

CHIRA (GLANCE)

A "MESSENGER FROM GOD" WHO IS THE SPEARHEAD OF THE DAUPHIN CHARLES' CAMPAIGN, FIGHTING TO CROWN HIM KING.

HOWEVER, RUMORS OF LA PUCELLE HAVE REACHED EVEN INTO THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE.

...THEN WE ARE TO LEND ALL AID POSSIBLE TO THE DAUPHIN CHARLES WHOM GOD HAS DESTINED TO BE THE LEGITIMATE SUCCESSOR TO THE CROWN.

AND IF HER POWER PROVES TO BE REAL...

TO SEE WITH OUR OWN EYES THE POWER OF THIS "LA PUCELLE."

AND THAT IS...?

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE ORDER OF THE DRAGON WERE GIVEN AN ORDER.

SO, THEN...

SU (SSK)

...WE WERE PRIVILEGED TO WITNESS THE POWER OF LA PUCELLE.

AND TRULY, AT ORLÉANS ...

YOU MAY COUNT ON US TO CLEAR THE ROAD TO YOUR CROWN!

OHH...!

YES!

YOUR MAJESTY CHARLES, WE OF THE ORDER OF THE DRAGON OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE SHALL PLEDGE OURSELVES TO ASSIST YOU IN CLAIMING YOUR RIGHTFUL PLACE!

YOU MUSTN'T AGREE TO THIS SO RASHLY!

LA TRÉ-MOILLE ...?

THIS IS SIMPLY UN-THINK-ABLE!!

IT'S MORE THAN WE COULD HAVE HOPED FOR—

REINFORCE-MENTS FROM THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE ARE WELCOME...

...BUT THEY TOO ARE ENGAGED IN A LONG WAR AGAINST THE HEATHENS AND SARA-CENS.

NOW WE HAVE TO FORTIFY OUR POSITION IN ORLÉANS AND EMPLOY EVERY DIPLOMATIC PATH AVAILABLE TO US.

WE HAVE FINALLY LIBERATED ORLÉANS!

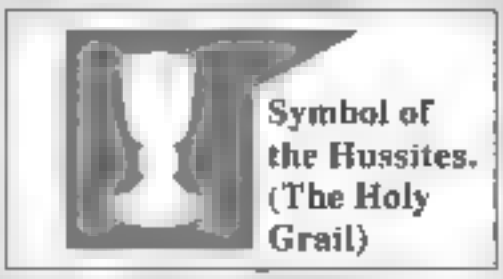
MY LORD CHAM-BERLAIN, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

—Hussite Wars—

A priest of the Kingdom of Bohemia, Jan Hus (1369–1415) was a religious reformer. Even while under the watchful glare of the all-powerful church, he preached to the commoners that the Catholic Church's teachings were in error and that the doctrine of Christ is something simpler, more personal, and easier to understand. In addition to theological differences, he denounced the clergy for their corruption, and thus his influence sparked a widespread movement.

In truth, the Catholic Church at the time was riddled with corruption and confusion. For example, there was a period during which three men claimed to be the pope at the same time. Hus denounced the corruption and needless political entanglements, and in doing so, his words resounded through the populace. Within the Kingdom of Bohemia, the followers of his teachings, the Hussites, grew rapidly in number.

VERSUS



Hus was excommunicated from the Catholic Church, yet he continued to preach. But the one who suffered the most from his friction was the Holy Roman Emperor, Sigismund.

One of the responsibilities of the Holy Roman Emperor was to act as protector and guardian of the Church, so to heal the divide and resolve the issue of multiple popes, Sigismund called the Council of Constance. He invited Hus to the council as well, offering him safe passage. Despite his assurances, the Catholic Church plotted against Hus, successfully arresting him and throwing him in a dungeon.

Although Sigismund was initially furious at the Church for ignoring his decree, the Church could not allow themselves to overlook a proclaimed heretic. They found Hus guilty and sentenced him to burn at the stake.

The execution of Hus provoked the smoldering rage of the Hussites into action, and in 1419, repeated confrontations with the Catholic Church brought discontent to a boiling point. The Hussite Wars broke out. Sigismund and the Pope called for a crusade to be organized against the Hussites, but they suffered defeat after defeat to the Hussites at the hands of many new weapons, including firearms.

Between 1427 to 1431, the crusades never managed to get very organized, and they could put up no large-scale assault. Intermittent fighting continued, and no one could predict the fate of the Holy Roman Empire.

THIS IS VERY LONG, SO YOU CAN SKIP IT IF YOU WANT

Background painting: Josef Mathauser, *Bitva u Lipan roku 1434*

YOU LOWLY —

I TAKE THAT AS AN INSULT TO THE HONOR OF THE ORDER OF THE DRAGON.

CHAKI KSHINK.

IT MAKES ME WONDER JUST HOW MUCH HELP SUCH "REINFORCE-MENTS" WOULD AMOUNT TO.

KACHI (SNAP)

...WOULD AMOUNT TO LITTLE MORE THAN A TINY CONTIN-GENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ORDER OF THE DRAGON, TRUE?

THAT BEING THE CASE, I ASSUME THE ONLY TROOPS HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR WOULD BE ABLE TO SEND...

NOW, NOW!

ANOTHER BRILLIANT MOVE BY THE FAMOUS COUN-CILOR LA TRÉ-MOILLE.

I PER-SONALLY FIND IT REFRESHING, YOUR CALM THINKING IN CONTRAST TO THE GENERALLY BUOYANT MOOD.

WHA ...!?

CONSTABLE RICHEMONT IS ALREADY ON THE MOVE.

HOWEVER, OUR HELP IS NOT OFFERED LIGHTLY OR AS A TOKEN GESTURE.

IF ANYTHING... I AM UNDERESTI-MATING H.S PROWESS.

AND THE TROOPS HE BRINGS WILL HAVE THE SAME POWER AS TEN THOUSAND REGULAR TROOPS!

IF CON-STABLE RICHE-MONT JOINS WITH THE FRENCH ARMY...

...THEN HE WILL ADD SEVERAL THOUSAND EXTRA SOLDERS TO YOUR EXISTING FORCES.

AND YOU PROPOSE WE TRUST HIM!?

R-RICHEMONT WAS EXPELLED FROM COURT BY THE DAUPHIN CHARLES HIMSELF!

BUT I WONDER, WAS IT TRULY HIS MAJESTY'S IDEA TO DO IT?

YOU ARE WRONG. HE IS A GREAT MAN. I HAVE SEEN HIS SKILLS FOR MYSELF.

HE MAY HAVE BEEN EXPELLED FROM COURT, AS YOU SAY...

—!?

VERY WELL. UNTIL THEN.

Y-YES...

IS THAT YOUR WILL, YOUR MAJES-TY?

I WILL ARRANGE FOR A COUNCIL GATHERING AT ONCE, SO LET US NOT DISCUSS IT FURTHER UNTIL THEN.

BA CHWOOSHO

BE THAT AS IT MAY...

...THIS MATTER NEEDS TO BE DISCUSSED IN COURT IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS MAJESTY'S OTHER VASSALS. THAT IS A GIVEN, IS IT NOT?

KATSU CTAKO

GARURURU GARRRO

YES...

HMPH!!

YOU MUST NOT ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE PROVOKED SO EASILY.

BUT MY DEAR LADY ELISA, YOU REALIZE THAT HIS INSULTING WORDS WERE DELIBER-ATE.

THAT'S THE OLD FOX FOR YOU.

HAAH...

THE MINUTE HE REALIZES HE IS AT A DISAD-VANTAGE IN ONE ARENA, HE ARRANGES FOR A NEW BATTLE-FIELD.

WAH-HAH HO-HO-HO!!

SUCH NOBILITY BLOS-SOMING BEFORE MY EYES! I MUST TAKE A MOMENT TO BURN IT INTO MY MEMORY!

BAN OBAMO

MY, WHAT A STUN-NINGLY GRAND GESTURE, MY LADY!

EVEN IF HE DID SO INTEN-TION-ALLY, I CANNOT SIMPLY STAND BY AND ALLOW OUR PRIDE TO BE SO IN-SULTED!

THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER REA-SON...

THERE IS NO WAY THAT OUR COMMITMENT TO HELPING FRANCE COULD BE A RISK TO THE SIDE HE SUPPORTS.

STILL... WHY WOULD THE GRAND CHAMBERLAIN CHALLENGE US?

ZA

ZA CZSHO

OF COURSE, THE SAME CAN BE SAID OF US...

...AND I MUST FIND A WAY TO REPORT TO THEM!

I NEED TO BUY MORE TIME, NO MATTER THE COST...

THIS DEVEL-OPMENT IS NOT GOOD...

カポーン

わし
WASH!

わし
WASH! (SCRUB)

TEE-HEE-HEE! THAT FIGHT MUST HAVE WORN YOU RIGHT OUT, CORBEAU!

KAPOPOOON (SPLOOSH)

I KNOW IT'S LATER THAN WE EXPECTED ...

...BUT I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD KEEP YOUR PROMISE OF TAKING A BATH WITH ME!

WELL...

THERE WAS A POINT I THOUGHT I HAD COMPLETELY CRUSHED HER, BUT... SHE WAS ABLE TO RECOVER AND STAND AGAINST ME AGAIN.

SO HOW WAS SHE? THIS "LA PUCELLE" YOU FOUGHT?

AND IT ALSO ALLOWED ME TO SEE SOMEONE ELSE WHOM I PERSONALLY FIND AN EVEN MORE FUN CHALLENGE!

BUT I DON'T MIND. IT MADE ME WANT TO COME AT HER EVEN HARDER.

チャプッ
CHAPU (SPLISH)

MINOU!

MY, YOU TWO SEEM TO BE HAVING A GOOD TIME.

SU (SHF)

WELL, NEXT TIME IT'LL BE MY TURN TO PLAY, AND SO I'LL SQUISH HER! LIKE THIS!!

OHH? MUST BE NICE!

GUCHA (SQUISH)

GUCHA

WILL THEY !?

I HEAR NEXT TIME IT WILL BE ALL OF LAPIN'S WISHES THAT WILL COME TRUE.

ALL RIGHT!!

きゅっ

GYU (HUG)

YES. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PLAY AS MUCH AS YOU WISH.

NO. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING SINCE LAST TIME.

DOES THAT MEAN THAT WE'VE BEEN GIVEN NEW ORDERS?

I SEE...

SHIIIN (SILENCE)

...

GL (CLENCH)

...AND I'M SURE THE NEWS WILL BE RECEIVED WITH JOY!

IT... IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CRUSH LA PUCELLE INTO TINY BITS...

GYUN

I HAVE FOUND SOMEONE APART FROM LA PUCELLE TO MAKE SPORT OF.

GYUN (SWOON)

YES, WELL...

I'M SURE IT WILL.

KAAA (GLEAM)

HA-HA! YES, OF COURSE, LAPIN...

THEN NEXT TIME, SHALL WE ALL GO TO MEET LA PUCELLE TOGETHER?

CHAPU (SPLISH)

I MUST ADMIT, THAT DOES MAKE ME JEAL-OUS.

AND WE'LL SEND OUR ENEMY ...

...INTO THE DARKEST DEPTHS OF DESPAIR!

LA PUCELLE, ARE YOU PRE-PARED?

KIIIIN (GLEAM)

Y-YES!

PAAAA
(GLOOOW)

KA
(FLASH)

ZA
(KZSH)

Chapter 12

HERE WE CAN TAKE THESE FORMS AND TEST OURSELVES WITHOUT ANY CONSTRAINTS, CAN WE NOT?

ヒュッ
HYU (PWSH)

A-ALL RIGHT!!

GO AHEAD, DO YOUR WORST!

PI (JAB)

KO

OUR AUDIENCE AWAITS, YOU KNOW!

GHIN
(CLANG)

HRM...

GU
(STRAIN

GI

GISHI
(GRIND)

WHOA!
WHOA!
WHOA!

GA

GA

GA
(WHAM)

ZUZAZAZA
(SKIIIID)

YOUR ATTACKS HAVE SOME SERIOUS POWER, JUST AS I SUS-PECTED!

KATSU (GRUNCH)

ZA (SKRCH)

KYU (TWIRL)

AHH !?

BI (ZWIT)

BI

DA (BLAM)

DA

SHUHUU (FSHHH)

YOU'RE UNHURT ...?

THIS TIME, I'LL BE THE ONE TO START.

VERY WELL.

WELL, YOU'RE MORE ROBUST THAN YOU LOOK.

THIS MAGICAL GIRL OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE...

GO, TART, GO!!

SHALL WE WITHDRAW TO THE CASTLE, YOUR MAJESTY?

WHAT IS SHE THINK-ING?

WHEN YOU SAID YOU HELPED US WITH THE WITCH IN ORLEANS...

WHAT IS IT?

UM... LADY ELISA, MAY I ASK A QUESTION?

GARURURU GRRRRR

ｶﾞﾚﾚﾚ

YOU NEED NOT THANK ME.

HO-HO!

SU (BOW)

THANK YOU SO MUCH! IT WAS YOUR HELP THAT GRANTED THE TOWN ITS FREEDOM!!

YES, IT APPEARED TO ME YOU WERE STRUGGLING A BIT.

WELL, I DO HAVE ONE REQUEST.

ムンッ!! MUN (CLENCH)

SO IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, JUST SAY THE WORD!

BUT YOU WILL BE HELPING US FROM HERE ON OUT TOO!

EHH !?

SO, IF YOU ARE WILLING...

...I WOULD LIKE TO WITNESS THE POWER OF LA PUCELLE IN PERSON!

...BUT I HAVE YET TO SEE ANY PROOF OF IT!

シュッ!! SHU (SWISH)

UNCLE OSWALD HAS ACCEPTED THAT YOU ARE POWERFUL ...

AAH!!

BI

BI

BI
= (ZWIT)

COME ON! COME ON!

TAN (BLAM)

TAN

YOU'RE LIKE A DUCK IN A BARREL IF YOU DON'T CLOSE IN!

NOW YOU'RE JUST FORCING MY HAND!

DA

DA

DA

DA (TMP)

...COMING IN TO CLOSE THE DISTANCE !!

I'M DOING YOU A FAVOR HERE...

DON (DOOM)

DO (WHAM)

GYURI (WHIRL)

GIRI (GRIND)

KA (FLASH)

HYUN (SWISH)

HYUN

HYAH!!

GA (SHAKO)

SU (SSK)

DOTE (WHUD)

WHOA!

GA (TRIP)

DAS ENDE!!

Y-
YOU'VE
WON.

IT LOOKS
LIKE OUR
CONTEST
IS OVER.

EXCEL-
LENT!

THAT
WAS A
WON-
DERFUL
DISPLAY,
LADY
ELISA!!

NYA-HO-HO-HO!!

I, FOR
ONE, AM
HAPPY
FOR HER
AID.

THAT
GIRL IS
HERE
TO HELP
US...?

ふぇっ
BLIWA
(TEARY)

WHAT A
PITY FOR
OUR DEAR
HOLY
MAIDEN!

THIS PROVES YOU CANNOT PUT FAITH IN RUMORS!

THEY CALL HER A "HOLY MAIDEN," A "MESSENGER OF GOD"...

KURU (TWIRL)

HEH HEH...

BUT... YOU ARE SO MUCH BETTER AT THIS THAN I AM, SO...

I ASSUMED THE RUMORS WERE EXAGGERATED, BUT EVEN MY TEMPERED EXPECTATIONS ARE BETRAYED.

"LA PUCELLE," YOU ARE A DISAPPOINTMENT.

YES. THAT IS EXACTLY MY POINT.

WHOA...

THAT'S AWFUL HARSH...

I AM A FOOL FOR THINKING YOU HAD WIT ENOUGH FOR A COME-BACK.

AREN'T YOU THE SIMPLE ONE.

OH, DEAR.

ASE (PANIC)

OH, NO! I CAN ONLY APOLOGIZE FOR NOT BEING WHAT YOU EXPECTED ...

ZA (SKSH)

ZA

(CHOOOOO)

OH? WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

HM?

BESIDES, SHE AIN'T JUST NOBILITY! SHE'S BEYOND THAT! YOU DON'T WANT A RASH ACTION NOW TO COME BACK AND BITE YOU!

YURA (SWAY)

NH! HEY, HOW 'BOUT YOU SHEATHE THOSE DAGGERS YOU'RE LOOKIN' AT HER!

BA (FWP)

IT'S JUST SPAR-RING!

EH?

YOU HAVE TO STOP HER SOME-HOW!

TH-THIS IS REALLY BAD...

...CLAIM THE CHANCE TO SPAR WITH YOU.

I TOO...

PAAAAA (GLOW)

YOU NEEDN'T BE SO NER-VOUS.

PFF! HEH!

AND LOOK! YOUR EARS HAVE GONE EVER SO RED!

HEH! HEH! HEH!

HO-HO! WHY NOT? I DO NOT MIND IN THE LEAST.

REVENGE FOR LA PUCELLE? HOW QUAINT.

HEH!

ブォ
(VWOOM)

WAIT!!

EH?

GASHI
(GRAB)

ガシッ

HA HA HA!?

GO
(WHOOM)

MY LADY!?

THIS IS GOING TO GET NOISY.

HAAH...

LADY ELISA!!

...

THERE'S NOT A THING I CAN DO TO STOP HER WHEN SHE GETS TRULY ANGRY.

H-HOW HUMILI-ATING...

THEN, I'M FACE TO FACE WITH THAT GIRL IN BLACK WHO LOOKS TO BE POWERFUL AND EXPERI-ENCED...

ゴロ〃
BORO (ROLL)

FIRST, I MANAGE TO EASILY DEFEAT LA PUCELLE, ALTHOUGH I SENSE HER POWER IS FAR GREATER THAN EVEN SHE REALIZES...

HOW COULD I HAVE DIS-PLAYED SUCH UNSEEMLY BEHAVIOR!?

BATA

BATA (FLAIL)

BUT THE WORST ONE...

EEE— YES!?

KON-KNOCK

I AM MOST RELIEVED TO HEAR IT!

I-I WASN'T FEELING POORLY, PHYS!-CALLY OR OTHER-WISE!

BASA CFWOOSHO

LADY ELISA, I HOPE YOU ARE FEELING BETTER.

カチャ

KACHA CKACHAK

PR.DE!? I RESENT THE VERY IMPLI-CATION THAT ...

HOW-EVER, PRIDE CAN BE YOUR ENEMY.

I KNOW AS WELL AS ANY HOW STRONG YOUR LADY-SHIP IS.

HOW-EVER, I MUST ADVISE YOU TO ALWAYS BE ON GUARD.

OHH!

HYOKO (POP)

AND THEREFORE I, ELISA CELJSKA...

...SHALL STAKE MY HONOR ON REVIVING MY REPU-TATION!

NO, WAIT... YES, YOU ARE COR-RECT.

NOW, SUMMON THAT GIRL TO ME TH S VERY INSTANT, AND I WILL DELIVER THE PUN SH- MENT SHE—

SH (SSK)

THAT'S THE SPIRIT, LADY ELISA!!

NWA-HO-

HO-HO!

PLEASE EXCUSE ME.

ZUZAZA (FLINCH)

EEEK!!

OH! JUST WHAT I WAS HOPING FOR!

I'VE BROUGHT REFRESH- MENTS, IF YOU PLEASE.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME. I DID ANNOUNCE MYSELF, BUT...

I-IT'S YOU!! WHEN DID YOU...

ZURI (SLIP)

I HUMBLY BEG YOUR FORGIVE-NESS.

ONLY TO APOLOGIZE FOR MY SHAMEFUL BEHAVIOR DURING OUR BOUT.

SA (SHFF)

WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT THIS TIME!?

...UM... LADY ELISA...

TH-THANK YOU SO MUCH, MY LADY ELISA!!

THERE IS NOTHING TO FORGIVE

FORGIVE? FORGIVE WHAT? THAT WAS THE VERY ESSENCE OF SPARRING.

IT IS HUMILIATING TO ADMIT, BUT I ALLOWED MY ANGER TO CONTROL MY ACTIONS.

I AM VERY SORRY.

I MUST ADMIT, YOU PROVED QUITE DIFFERENT FROM MY FIRST IM-PRESSION OF YOU.

YOU...

I THOUGHT PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE ANOTHER WORD WITH HER.

BY THE WAY, WHAT IS LA PUCELLE DOING RIGHT NOW?

TO (THUMP)

BOSO (MUTTER) ...

WELL, THAT BARS ME FROM MAKING ANY MORE TAUNTS.

PO (BLUSH)

YOU SEE, WHEN IT COMES TO TART... ER... TO LA PUCELLE, I LOSE ALL PERSPEC-TIVE...

I SUPPOSE THEY'LL HAVE A STRATEGY MEETING TO DECIDE WHERE THEIR ARMY WILL GO NEXT.

HM.

COURT ?

...SHE WAS CALLED TO COURT. SHE SHOULD BE ON HER WAY THERE NOW.

WELL ...

HOWEVER, WE ARE STILL CONSIDERED OUTSIDERS. I WOULD ASSUME THE GRAND CHAMBERLAIN WANTS TO PUT FORTH HIS OWN OPINION.

I ADMIT, I TOO AM SURPRISED AT THIS SUDDEN TURN AS THEY MENTIONED ONLY YESTERDAY THAT THEY HADN'T ASSEMBLED ALL THEIR VASSALS YET.

WHAT!?

AND THEY NEVER INFORMED US!?

I IF YOU'... JUST EXCUSE ME A MOMENT

DOTABATA (SCAMPER)

UWAAH!!

U-UM...I'M AFRAID YOU CANNOT GO DRESSED AS YOU ARE.

AT ONCE!

YOU! I WISH TO BE GUIDED TO COURT!

DI (WHIP) KO!!

YES?

NUGI

NUGI (STRIP)

BY THE WAY, LADY MELISSA...

OH...?

BEFORE WE PROCEED TO THIS COUNCIL, I WAS HOPING TO RECTIFY THAT OVERSIGHT.

AHH, DEAR ME...

IT MAY BE BECAUSE I'M GETTING ON IN YEARS, BUT THERE IS SOMEONE HERE IN LOCHES TO WHOM I FORGOT TO PAY MY RESPECTS.

THE GREAT HALL OF THE CHÂTEAU DE LOCHES

I FEEL WE SHOULD MAKE FOR REIMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

AS I WAS SAYING...

IF YOU ARE SANCTIFIED AS KING, IT WILL STEM THE CURRENT SUPPORT FOR ENGLAND.

THAT IS THE ONE THING THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE NEED MOST!

MY GENTLE DAUPHIN MUST BE CROWNED KING OF FRANCE AT REIMS!

A CORO-NATION IS A SERIOUS UNDER-TAKING.

SPOKEN LIKE SOLDIERS AND MEN OF ACTION! HOWEVER, I BELIEVE YOU ARE ACTING BEFORE IT IS PRU-DENT

LET US USE THESE TROOPS TO ESCORT US TO REIMS!!

AND BECAUSE OF THE VICTORY LA PUCELLE BROUGHT US, MORE AND MORE SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN FLOCKING TO OUR BANNER!

WHAT DO OUR CIVIL OFFICIALS HAVE TO SAY ON THIS MATTER?

ISN'T NOW THE TIME TO TIGHTEN OUR BORDERS AND DIG IN?

THEY WILL FORTIFY OUR DEFENSE OF ORLÉANS.

I AM OVERJOYED TO HEAR THAT WE'VE MUSTERED TROOPS.

A MOST WISE AND PRUDENT OPINION.

THE LORD CHAMBERLAIN SPEAKS TRUE!

NOW ...

...YOUR MAJESTY, COULD WE HAVE YOUR DECISION?

SU (SSK)

AND GIVEN THE LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S IRON-FIST OVER THE COURT, I'VE NEVER SEEN THE DAUPHIN TAKE A STAND AGAINST HIM...

IF THIS KEEPS GOING AS IT IS, OUR OPINIONS WILL BE CAST ASIDE.

THE BUREAUCRACY AND CLERGY... ALL THE CIVIL OFFICIALS ARE INDEPENDENT IN NAME ONLY. THEY ARE ALL DYED-IN-THE-WOOL SUPPORTERS OF THE LORD CHAMBERLAIN.

KA (TAK)

カッ

FATHER?

AH!

LOUIS?

OH...?

ELDEST SON OF
THE DAUPHIN CHARLES
LOUIS DE VALOIS

I TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT HE INSISTED ON MEETING LA PUCELLE ...

OH, PLEASE FORGIVE US!

YOUR MAJES-TY!!

TA (TMP)

WIFE OF THE DAUPHIN CHARLES
MARIE D'ANJOU

ME?

MY LADY LA PUCELLE!

AND... AND I WOULD BEG MORE OF YOU! PLEASE SEE MY FATHER RIGHT-FULLY CROWNED THE KING OF FRANCE!

PLEASE, I'M NOT WORTHY OF SUCH PRA SE, PRINCE LOUIS!

OH!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BRINGING VICTORY TO ORLÉANS!

FUWA (WHUMP!)

I WILL SEE MY GENTLE DAUPHIN CROWNED FOR HIS SAKE, AND FOR YOURS TOO, YOUR HIGH-NESS!

I WILL!

YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME!

GYU (HUG)

ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL RECORDS, KING LOUIS XI OF FRANCE STATED THAT MEETING JOAN OF ARC IN LOCHES WAS A MEMORY HE TREASURED FOREVER. EVEN AFTER JOAN WAS BURNED AT THE STAKE, HE WAS THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WHO STILL REFUSED TO HIDE HIS GRATITUDE FOR HER WORKS.

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT!

OHH...

ALTHOUGH JEAN WAS A COMMONER NAME AT THE TIME, KING LOUIS XI NAMED TWO OF HIS DAUGHTERS JEAN.

OUR NEXT GOAL WILL BE REIMS!

AND UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF LA PUCELLE, I WILL BE CROWNED KING OF FRANCE!

FURU (TRMBL)

HM?

WE HAVE MADE OUR DECI-SION.

WON'T THAT BE THE QUICKEST WAY TO BRING PEACE TO FRANCE !?

WHY DID THAT BOY CHOOSE THIS MOMENT TO...?

WHAT !?

AH!

GIRI GIRI

WAS THIS THEIR DOING!?

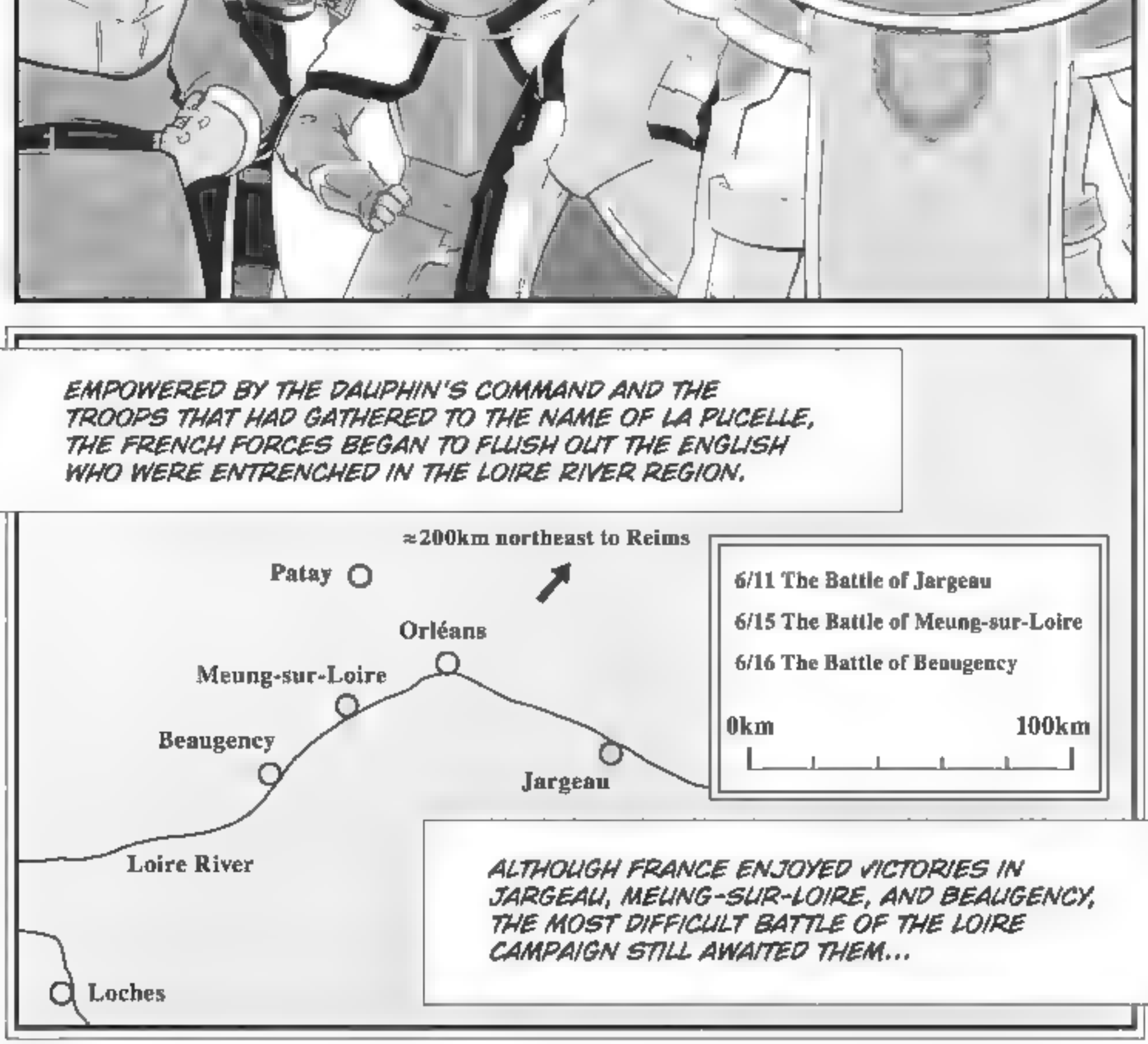
ヒラ ヒラ

HIRA (WAVE) HIRA

AND SO IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE FRENCH ARMY WOULD START ITS ADVANCE TOWARD THE TOWN OF REIMS. THIS MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES WAS DUBBED THE LOIRE CAMPAIGN.

THE HEAD STRATEGIST FOR THE MISSION WAS THE DUKE OF ALENÇON, AND TART WAS ORDERED TO BE HIS AIDE-DE-CAMP.

EMPOWERED BY THE DAUPHIN'S COMMAND AND THE TROOPS THAT HAD GATHERED TO THE NAME OF LA PUCELLE, THE FRENCH FORCES BEGAN TO FLUSH OUT THE ENGLISH WHO WERE ENTRENCHED IN THE LOIRE RIVER REGION.



ALTHOUGH FRANCE ENJOYED VICTORIES IN JARGEAU, MEUNG-SUR-LOIRE, AND BEAUGENCY, THE MOST DIFFICULT BATTLE OF THE LOIRE CAMPAIGN STILL AWAITED THEM...

ZAAAAA
(WOOOSH)

TTTTT

JUNE 18TH, 1429
PATAY

THIS TIME, THERE'S ONE MORE ADDED TO THE TWO WE'VE ALREADY SEEN.

EN-GLAND'S MAGICAL GIRLS...

I JUST THOUGHT I'D KEEL OVER FROM SORROW!

ALL WE EVER DO IS WAIT!

I FINALLY GET TO PLAY!

ぴょん

PYON
(BOING)

AS YOU WISH...

TALBOT, WE'LL BE ACTING AS WE PLEASE.

...IS WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY, BUT THERE MAY BE A MAN ON THE OTHER SIDE THAT I SIMPLY CAN-NOT AFFORD TO LOSE TO. AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I'VE HEARD.

YES...

OH? SO YOU HAVE ONE OF THOSE TOO, DO YOU?

WELL, CORBEAU, LAPIN, SHALL WE...?

KURU CTURU

THEN DO AS YOU DEEM BEST.

WE HAVE NO IN-TEREST IN HU-MANS.

AS LONG AS WE CAN MAKE SPORT OF LA PUCELLE AND THAT BLACK ONE, WE'LL BE CONTENT.

BASA FLAP

WHAT'S THAT!?

ZAWA (MURMUR)

ZAWA

KYORO (GLANCE)

WHERE IS LAPIN?

OH MY.

KYORO

ZUDA (STOMP)

KAAA (ZWOOOM)

DA

DA

DA

DA

DA

SOMEONE IS COMING OUT OF THE ENGLISH LINE AT A SPEED NOT TO BE BELIEVED!!

ALL ALONE !?

PYON (BOING)

LA PU-CELLE!

FOUND YOU!!

KII

NOW!

MY MAGIC EYES WILL...

KIIN

KIIN (GLEAM)

EH !?

215w

BISW (SLICE)

LAPIN!? YOU CAN'T GO IN ALONE!! IT'S SUICIDE !!

GO (THOOM)

BON (BOOM)

ZAZAZAZA (SKKKSHHH)

GAHH!!

BON

GUU (VWSH)

HM?

BUSU

BUSU (FSHH)

GNH... IT HURTS ...!!

DOMU (DWHOOOH)

LADIN!!

GYURU (WRAP)

PRE-PARE YOUR SOUL!!

TART!!

BA (WHOOSH)

GA (KIRUNCHO)

ZAKYU (KSHOOM)

IT'LL BE YOUR TURN NEXT.

SU (SSK)

HMPH! WHAT A SIMPLE-TON!

HO HO!

DOSHA (SLUMP)

ドシャッ！

WHAT!?

HAAGH!

HAAFH!

MY SISTER LAPIN HASN'T EVEN BEGUN YET.

"TURN"? WHATEVER CAN YOU MEAN BY THAT?

TEE-HEE!

BLUA (WWOOOSH)

GYURU (WHIRL)

ZU

ZU

ZU

ZU

ZU

ZU (CRUMBL)

EVERY-ONE'S WEAP-ONS... WHAT IS GOING ON HERE!?

WH-WHAT THE —!?

FUWA (FLOAT)

FUWA

GUGU (STRAIN)

NOW...

...YOUR TALE OF HOPE ENDS...

OOOOO (RRRUMBLE)

A WONDERFUL EXAMPLE OF HOW TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE, MY DEAR SISTER LAPIN!

...AND SO BEGINS...

...YOUR SAGA OF DESPAIR !!!

■ The Age of Jeanne The Liberation of Orléans and Afterward

May 8th, 1429

Orléans had been under siege for seven months. Just moments before they were forced to surrender, La Pucelle arrived to aid their cause, and within a week, she helped to miraculously liberate the city

The victory sent Orléans into wild excitement, and the very next day, the people organized a parade in celebration

Every year since then for nearly six centuries, the city of Orléans holds the Joan of Arc Festival from April 29th until May 8th. Their gratitude to her is undiminished after all this time

The shockwaves generated by the liberation of Orléans resounded throughout the Kingdom of France, and news of France's victory and La Pucelle's role in it traveled far and wide, including English-occupied Paris. Clément de Fauquembergue, a recording secretary for the Parlement of Paris (high court of justice) recorded the following entry in his journals

"Tuesday, May 10th, The news is all over town that the Dauphin Charles sent a force of soldiers to Orléans and took the fortress back from the English. It is said that a young girl joined the army on the battlefield and went amidst the fighting bearing a banner."

But the most notable aspect of this entry is not so much the words, but an image some might describe as a doodle of La Pucelle herself. It is the only image of Joan of Arc drawn during her lifetime.

Afterward, the La Pucelle who brought about the miraculous liberation of Orléans went to meet with the Dauphin Charles. Chronicles of the time state that Charles met her outside the gates of the Château de Loches, and with a large crowd looking on, he went forward himself, embraced her, and gave her a kiss

It was said that this was the greatest show of gratitude that could be bestowed, but La Pucelle had surpassed any of the achievements of Charles's court up to then. On the other hand, others noted that her comrades in arms, followers, and true believers—Gilles de Rais, The Bâtard Jean, and La Hire—had been the commanders on the battlefield who had given the orders, and therefore, they felt, the victory had nothing to do with the girl. This was the belief of the most powerful faction at court led by La Trémoille, who saw her as a political threat

La Pucelle's primary ambition was to see Charles crowned king at Reims, so with Orléans out of danger, she and her faction laid out a plan for the troops to advance toward Reims. But La Trémoille publically raised objections to this suggestion. His plan was more conservative, suggesting negotiations with England and the Burgundians. In his view, if the troops were to advance anywhere, it should be to the northwest toward Normandy, a completely different direction than the route suggested by La Pucelle's group

The daily expenses of the royal family in addition to war expenses had left the King in poverty, so the King had been dependent on loans from La Trémoille to pay the Royal Court's operating expenses. His reliance was such that even the Dauphin had little room to oppose La Trémoille easily, but fate was on La Pucelle's side

The first key to her success was the fact that La Trémoille and his faction at court had been opposed to sending the forces to liberate Orléans, so the funds to pay the war costs came from Charles's mother, Yolande d'Aragon. The second key lay in the wisdom of the English commander, John Talbot, who, rather than fighting a massive battle, quit the field to preserve the main part of his forces. This meant that there were still six thousand English troops camped not too far from Orléans, awaiting their chance to come and retake the city. The third key was the direct appeal of La Pucelle, whose actions had given Charles the liberty to decide his own fate. This was the counsel of the woman who had brought about this miraculous victory, and her words were akin to a direct revelation from God. This was something that not even the members of La Tremoille's faction could easily ignore

These were the primary factors that influenced the Dauphin to reject La Trémoille's opinion and adopt the course of action suggested by La Pucelle. The French would march to Reims.

The English, as mentioned above, were waiting for a chance to retake Orléans, and their forces needed to be taken care of before the trip to Reims was even possible The result was a series of attacks targeting the English troops scattered in forts along the Loire River. These battles were called the Loire Campaign.

France was on a roll, and nothing could stop their momentum. England had troops garrisoned in Jargeau, Meung-sur-Loire, and Beaugency, and the French forces hit each, compounding their victories.

Despite losing ground, the English forces retreated from these garrisons to gather on a main road near Patay The French army followed them there, and both sides came out in force for a large confrontation.

And so began the Battle of Patay, a large-scale confrontation on the wide fields near the town But battle on the open fields has always been unlucky for the French

The liberation of Orléans and Jargeau in the Loire Campaign were both fought against fortifications. In other words, defensive battles or the storming of walls. But since the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, the French have always met with defeat after defeat in battles on open fields.

The Battle of Patay would decide the future of the French army, for good or ill.

This is what was drawn in the margins of a journal kept by Clément de Fauquembergue of the Parlement of Paris—a picture of Joan of Arc.

Since he was only drawing from hearsay, we can be fairly certain it isn't a portrait taken from life, but this is the only surviving image of La Pucelle drawn during her lifetime

■Next Volume Preview■

Tart

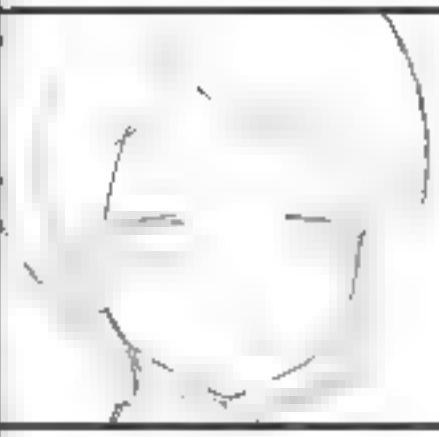
She was urged by Riz to enroll at Holy Maiden Academy

For some reason, she has become extremely popular both in school and out

Riz, Upperclassman

Cool in both word and deed, this upperclassman exudes an aura of mystery

She's is known to have an unexpected sweet tooth.



Melissa, Classmate

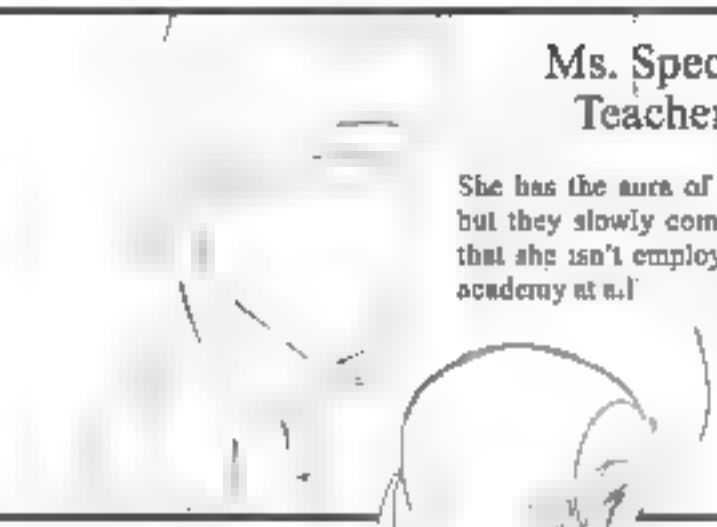
Tart's classmate. What's in the thermos she's always carrying around is a mystery

Her father is one of the gym teachers at the academy

Elisa, Transfer Student

A noble-sounding transfer student with a pedigree.

She suffered her first-ever defeat in Judo class at the hands of Melissa



Ms. Specs, Teacher

She has the aura of a teacher, but they slowly come to learn that she isn't employed by the academy at all

■The Story Thus Far

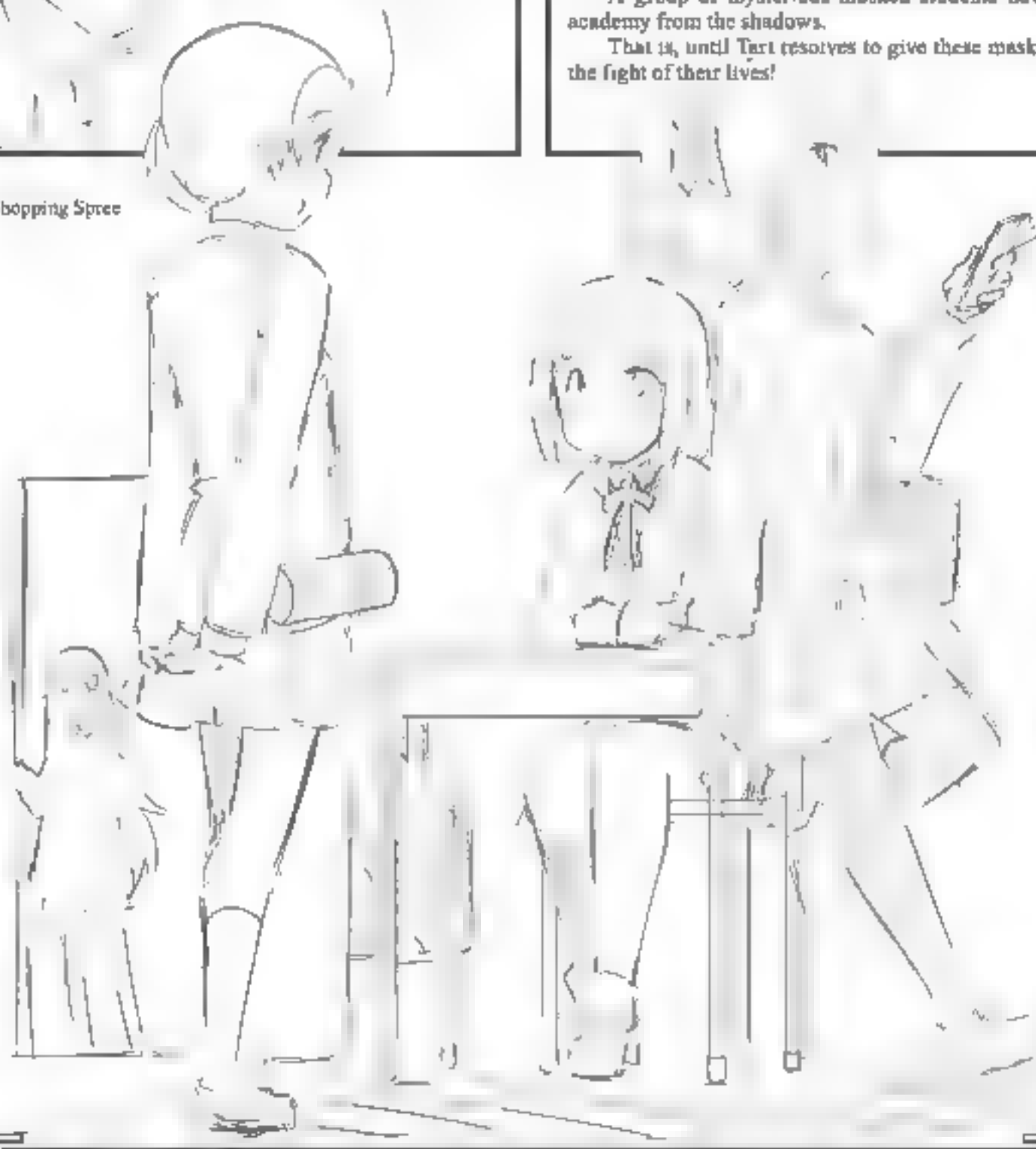
The Holy Maiden Academy was once regarded as one of the country's top schools; it has fallen on hard times of late.

Through the efforts of Tart and her friends, it is slowly rebuilding its reputation, but it is just as matters are taking a turn for the better that an unexpected obstacle rears its head.

A group of mysterious masked students have taken over the academy from the shadows.

That is, until Tart resolves to give these masked troublemakers the fight of their lives!

Chapter 7
The Mitakihara Shopping Spree



■Character Introductions■

◆ Jean Poton de Xaintrailles ◆

A mercenary from the same town as La Hire in the Gascony region of southern France. He also bears the same formidable reputation as La Hire, and before being hired into the the Dauphin's service, he was known to fight against the Dauphin's forces when the price was right. In some ways, he was more loyal to his own greed than even La Hire. Even so, after he was employed by the Dauphin, he was loyal from then on, and he became a commander upon whom the Dauphin relied heavily.

◆ Arthur de Richemont ◆

He was born in France's northwesternmost dukedom, Brittany. His brother was, at the time, the Duke of Brittany. Starting in his teens, he played a central role in France's battles against England, and in 1425, he was appointed the Constable of France. He proved to be a shrewd politician within the Dauphin's court, but between the machinations of La Trémoille and his own temper, his relationship with the Dauphin soured, leading up to his eventual explusion from court. Excelling in both military and political skills, he continued to play a vital part in the history of the Hundred Years' War.

◆ Oswald von Wolkenstein ◆

Born in southern Tyrol, Oswald was unperturbed by the congenital blindness in his right eye and left home at the tender age of ten to travel the world as a squire, sightseeing and having adventures in both Europe and Asia. He returned to Tyrol at the age of twenty-two after reportedly mastering ten languages. He also gained a reputation as a composer who sang, wrote lyrics, and composed music. These experiences combined led to his being considered the last troubadour and the first singer-songwriter. With his superhuman range of experience, he was employed by the Holy Roman Empire as both an envoy and a member of the Order of the Dragon.

◆ Jean d'Alençon II ◆ "The Fair Duke"

Married into a lesser branch of the royal Valois family, though he had been the youthful leader of the Alençon family prior to that. In 1425, he was captured by England and spent the next five years of his life as their prisoner. He was eventually ransomed for a large sum of money, but a condition of his release was a written pledge that he would never act in aggression against England again. This prevented him from taking part in the liberation of Orléans. He returned to the battlefield as a direct commander alongside La Pucelle, and they formed extremely strong bonds of friendship.

◆ Marie d'Anjou ◆

Marie was married to the Dauphin Charles as a political union arranged through her mother, Yolande, who offered protection to the Dauphin upon his flight from Paris. Still, she bore him fourteen children, the eldest of which was Louis. Louis was later known as a collector of holy relics, and it could be that his interest in them was sparked by seeing the miracles demonstrated by La Pucelle.

◆ Louis de Valois ◆

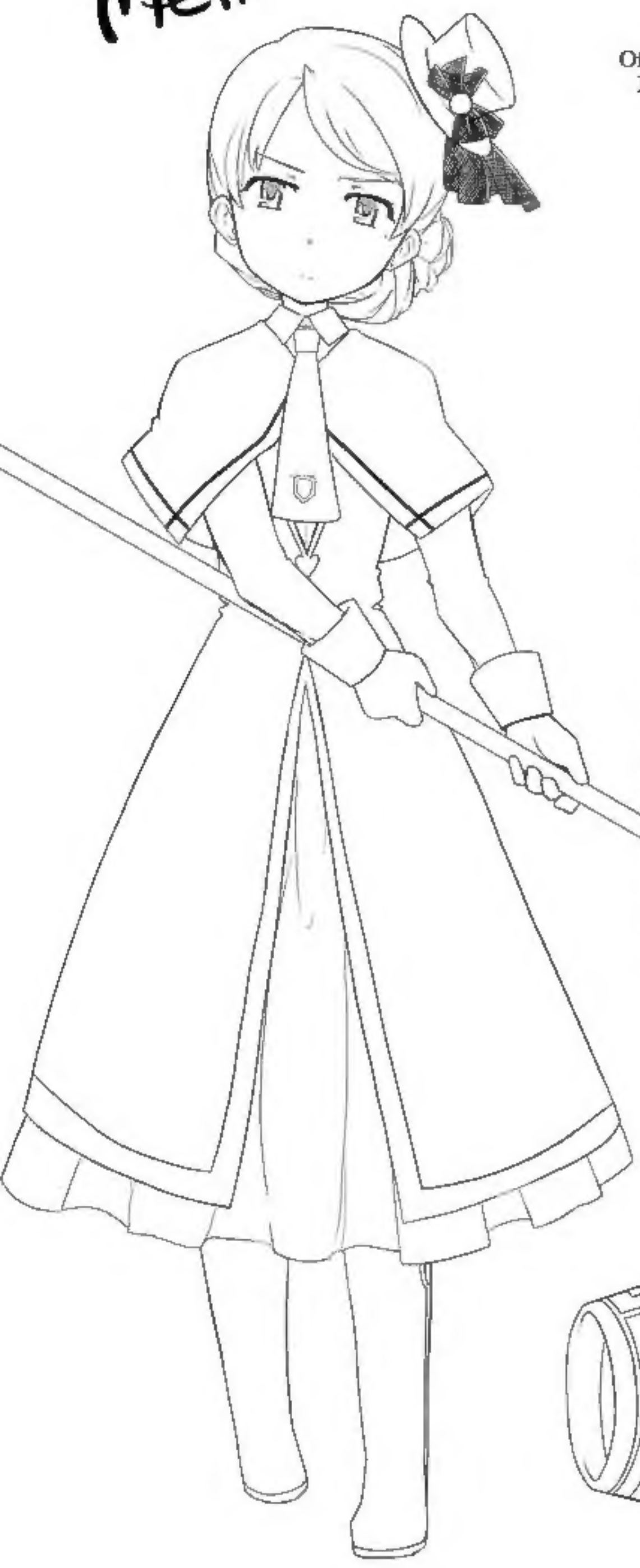
Puella Magi Tart☆Magica
The Legend of Jeanne d'Arc
Vol. 3

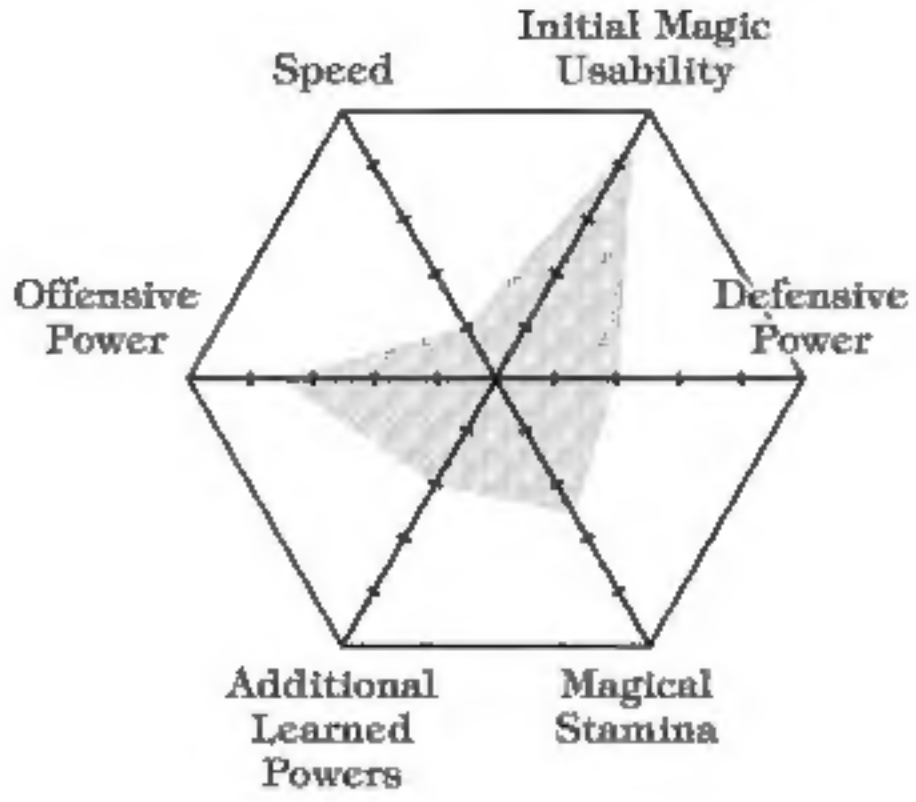
Based on the story by
Magica Quartet

Presented by
Masugitsune, Kawazu-ku

Assistant
Sergei

Melissa



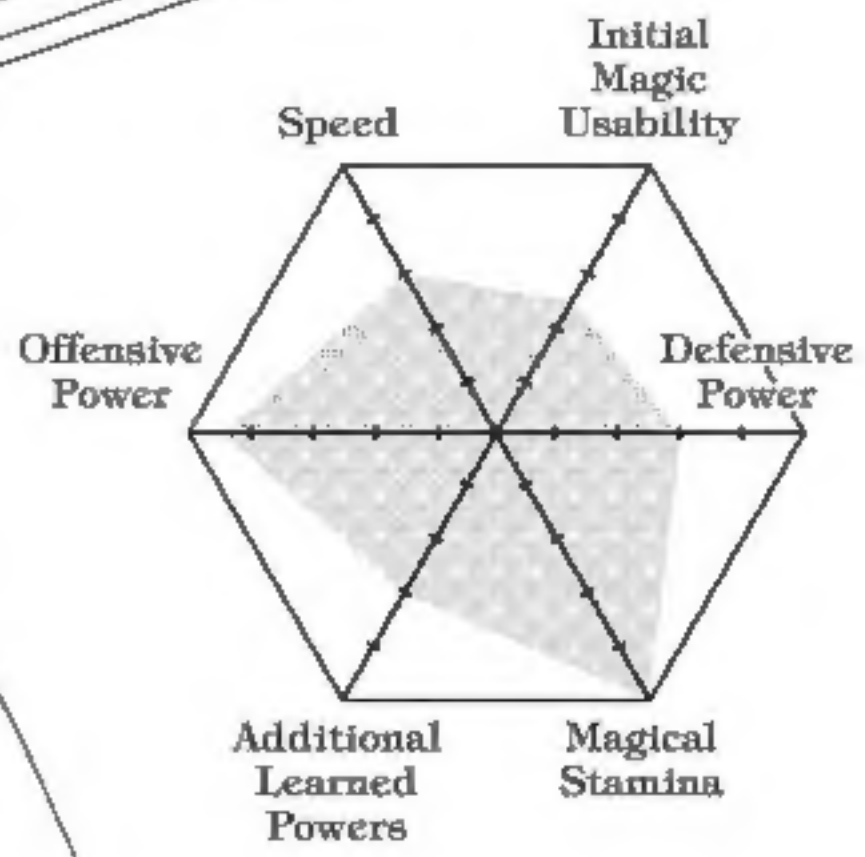


She has a calm and gentle personality, but her father *was* known as "La Hire" ("The Rage"), so she inherited a portion of his violent temper as well.

Like her personality, she also inherited her father's proficiency in battle when she became a magical girl. She swings around her huge staff with ease.

Her wish—to heal the wounds that threatened her father's and Tart's lives—provided her not with powers to medically assist her comrades in arms, but rather with powerful attack abilities. One aspect of her powers is a boost to her weapon-wielding skills, and she was also given the ultimate attack: the ability to destroy matter itself. Finally, the maid costume she wears was originally handmade by her father, but she's made her own alterations and improvements since then to arrive at this look.

Elisa



Elisa has been sent all over the European continent under orders from the Order of the Dragon, of which she is a member. Throughout those journeys, she has developed her battle abilities to a high level.

Her weapon—a combination that includes an axe, thrusting blade, and other devices to make a five-function weapon—represents the height of early fifteenth-century technology. But actually, she received it from a certain someone.

She would need the battle sense of a prodigy to be able to use this weapon to its fullest potential, considering how difficult it is to manage in both ranged attacks and handling, but her experience gives her towering self-confidence when it comes to wielding it. Her bearing is proud and extravagant, which could come off as haughty, but she can also take on a relaxed affect with those whose presence she can accept.

PUELLA MAGI
TART☆MAGICA ❸

MAGICA QUARTET
MASUGITSUNE
KAWAZU-KU

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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